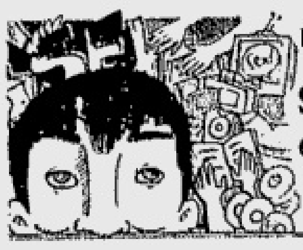


■ 2bU! / C1

Sex & the (young) city: 3-letter word 101 for Pinoy youth

■ World / A11

Nasa orders unprecedented repairs on Discovery shuttle

■ Business / B1

BIR misses July target by 20%, putting at risk gov't fiscal program

■ Across / A16

Palawan to sue gov't on Malampaya gas proceeds

■ News / A2

Zuce to testify in 'jueteng' Senate probe today

Las Vegas welcomes 35 Filipino teachers

LAS VEGAS—Elmer Potes was cheered by friends and fellow educators as he arrived to teach for three years in the United States.

"A Philippine-style welcome," Potes said, passport in hand and a smile on his face as he and 34 other Filipino teachers arrived Sunday at McCarran International Airport.

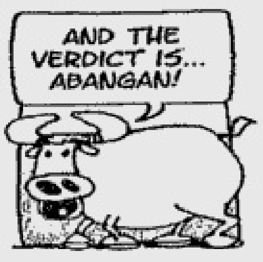
The 34-year-old math teacher plans to

LAS VEGAS/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Sandigan programmed to convict Erap–Saguisag

By Nelson F. Flores


AND THE VERDICT IS... ABANGAN!

LAWYER Rene Saguisag yesterday said the Sandiganbayan special division would convict former President Joseph Estrada of plunder because it had

SANDIGAN/ A8

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Wednesday, August 3, 2005 ★★ 52 pages / 6 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 236 P18
website: www.inq7.net

Palace now mum on Zuce

Bunye: No more comments on charges

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG appears to be stonewalling on specific issues regarding the elusive Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano and his nephew, whistle-blower Michaelangelo Zuce.

Aside from issuing blanket denials of Zuce's account of how President Macapagal-Arroyo allegedly connived with poll officials to rig last year's elections, Palace spokespersons have refused to comment on Garcillano and Zuce, especially on specific allegations against the President.

In a press briefing, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye was curt in his replies.

Bunye was asked why the government, with all its resources, could not locate Garcillano while Zuce claimed to have sought permission from Garcillano before coming out publicly with his bombshell on Monday.

Zuce gave an eyewitness account of Ms Arroyo's meeting with election officials in January 2004 at her Quezon City home where illegal gambling money was reportedly distributed to participants.

Bunye replied: "Maybe that is something that you can answer yourself if you ask him. I have no information. I'm sorry."

When asked if the President was worried that Garcillano would turn against her, Bunye was adamant in his reply: "I beg your indulgence we cannot answer further questions on that. I am not in a position to comment on that."

Bunye was also evasive when pressed to comment on whether Malacañang was still serious in locating Garcillano. "I'm sorry I cannot answer that, I have no information. Next question."

Zuce is to appear today at the resumption of the Senate hearing on illegal gambling. *(See story on Page A2.)*

In parrying media inquiries regarding Zuce's statement, Bunye

PALACE/ A8

OVP PHOTO BY EGAY MONTANA

MOURNFUL MISSION. Vice President Noli de Castro with wife Arlene leaves for Riyadh on Tuesday to represent the country in the funeral of King Fahd of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Also presidential adviser on OFWs, De Castro paid tribute to the king as a "champion of skilled Filipinos." Nearly 365,000 OFWs live in Saudi Arabia. De Castro is scheduled to return on Friday. *(Story on Page A4.)*

First Couple no mood to celebrate 37th

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THEY were in no mood to celebrate their 37th (chrysoberyl) wedding anniversary yesterday but not because she was facing the most dangerous political crisis of her presidency.

Only a simple dinner at Malacañang last night was in the schedule of President Macapagal-Arroyo and the First Gentleman, aides said.

"I don't think there would be any celebration," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said. "As you very well know, the First Gentleman came here for the principal reason of the sister who died. Were it not for the death of the sister, he would have not have come back."

The First Gentleman had always celebrated the anniversary with a traditional single white rose amid a bed of red roses for his wife, and a fancy dinner at a special place.

But for yesterday's anniversary, the First Couple had only planned a simple dinner at the Palace, the First Gentleman's chief of staff Juris Soliman told the INQUIRER.

Soliman said the First Gentleman was heartbroken by the death of his half-sister, Rosario Tuason Matute Llora, on Saturday.

"He is really saddened by the loss of a dear sister. He really felt sad when he heard that his sister was looking for him at her

FIRST/ A6

Who doesn't know Tita Baby Pineda?

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Nearly everyone in Pampanga—from Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid, Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo, mayors, barangay leaders, health workers, farmers and market vendors to the sick and alms seekers—calls her "Tita Baby."

Last week, Pampanga Board Member Lilia Pineda's identity as the motherly, benevolent woman she was known to have cultivated while in public service, began to be overshadowed.

Thrown in the brewing "jueteng" scandal, Baby Pineda, 54, a former mayor of Lubao town, found herself becoming an appendage to her husband, suspected gambling lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda, and to her *kumare*, President Macapagal-Arroyo.

New jueteng witness Michael-

WHO/ A18

TONETTE OREJAS

LADY OF THE HOUR, Lilia Pineda with Rep. Mikey Arroyo in a church in Guagua, Pampanga, April 2003.

Mystery shrouds Rufino statement

By Gerry Lirio
and Christine O. Avendaño

HOW CAN a seriously ill man in a hospital intensive care unit prepare a statement eight paragraphs long and sign it?

Is it possible that it was prepared and signed much earlier than when Palace officials actually released it?

Those were the questions provoked by the statement released by Malacañang late Monday night and signed by former presidential adviser Jose Ma. Rufino denying allegations that President Macapagal-Arroyo had asked poll officials to help her win the 2004 presidential election.

The allegations were made by Rufino's former staffer, Michaelangelo Zuce, who said Ms Arroyo made the plea in a meeting in her own La Vista house with regional and provincial officials of the Commission on Elections months before the election. Zuce also alleged that money changed hands during the meeting.

Ms Arroyo and other senior Palace officials have vigorously denied the accusations.

Rufino has been suffering from liver cancer and is confined at the Medical City in Pasig.

MYSTERY/ A8

Zuce not just Palace 'functionary'

By Fe Zamora

WHISTLE-BLOWER Michaelangelo Zuce may not just be a "mere functionary" as Malacañang officials describe him.

A political strategist for Sen. Rodolfo G. Biazon said Zuce had even offered to help pull up the senator's votes during last year's polls at P10 per vote.

"He called me up from Cagayan de Oro and he said that many 'operators' were there, that it might be necessary to pull up Biazon's vote. We're not done with the canvassing," said the source, who requested anonymity.

Biazon rejected the offer, but he went on to win the hotly contested 12th Senate slot over reelectionist and partymate Robert Barbers.

"Zuce moved around Mindanao during the elections, and he crossed paths with big-name operators who were working for both administrative and opposition candidates. He knows them. If he is compromised, he can identify them all," the INQUIRER source added.

He said Zuce also offered to pull up the votes of another reelectionist senator from the Visayas. "The candidate thought it was too expensive, so he lost," the source said.

Another political strategist who worked for a topnotcher senator confirmed the vote-buying

ZUCE NOT/ A6

GMA 'brilliant, tenacious,' says outgoing US diplomat

By Volt Contreras

OPINION polls and public mood swings are "always fickle." That's why President Macapagal-Arroyo should just move forward with her reforms and reach out to her enemies.

Such encouragement for the embattled President came from the American diplomat who himself had experienced how time and circumstance could heal a battered image.

US Chargé d'Affaires Joseph Mussomeli, who months ago drew the ire of the Philippine government over some unsavory remarks, yesterday received one of the highest state honors from the same officials who had admonished him.

Set to leave Manila on Saturday to be Washington's ambassador to Cambodia, Mussomeli gave parting praises to Ms Arroyo, calling her a "very brilliant and very tenacious" leader "who can turn this (crisis) around positively."

With wife Sharon, Mussomeli received the Order of Sikatuna award from Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo.

Speaking to reporters following the rites, Mussomeli said "(President Arroyo) has been very assertive and straightforward, moving forward with the reforms and reconciliation that is necessary."

"Popularity contests are dangerous and the population is always fickle in every country," he said, apparently alluding to the President's plunging figures in opinion polls in the wake of scandals hounding her the past three months, including the alleged rigging of the 2004 presidential elections.

Malacañang thanked Mussomeli for his "well-intentioned but unsolicited advice" that Ms Arroyo would recover from the crisis if she implemented her reforms.

In a statement at a news briefing, Press Secretary Ignacio Bun-

GMA/ A6

RYAN LIM

THE ORDER OF SIKATUNA is awarded US Charge d' Affaires Joseph Mussomeli at the farewell party hosted by Foreign Secretary Romulo.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon, Visayas and Western Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with occasional rains becoming frequent over Eastern Luzon. The rest of Mindanao will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY ERIKA A. SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/08/03/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Rains
Legazpi	Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Second FRONTPAGE

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Senate to hear new witness today

By TJ Burgonio

MICHAELANGELO Zuce will get another chance to tell all about President Macapagal-Arroyo's alleged links to illegal gambling pay-offs and electoral fraud when he appears before the Senate today.

Zuce, a former Palace staff aide, will appear as a "surprise witness" of Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. at the resumption of the Senate inquiry into bribes involving jueteng, the illegal numbers game, at 10 a.m. today.

At a press conference on Monday, the 30-year-old Zuce claimed that he witnessed Lilia Pineda, a Pampanga provincial board member, paying off regional directors of the Commission on Elections after a meeting with the President in her La Vista home in January 2004.

Pineda is the wife of suspected jueteng operator Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda.

The President has denied the allegations.

"I'm just trying to surprise the chairmen, but the witness is Zuce. They seem not to know about anything regarding what's happening. So this will be a surprise to them," said Pimentel.

Senators Manuel Villar Jr. and Manuel Lapid are co-chairing the Senate inquiry into the illegal numbers racket.

Zuce's testimony was crucial since he can testify not only on the use of jueteng money but also the bribery of Comelec officials to ensure Ms Arroyo's victory in the 2004 elections, Pimentel said.

He scoffed at claims that Zuce has no credibility to testify on whether jueteng money was used to bribe election officials.

Apart from Zuce, Villar said the other witnesses who have been invited to today's hearing are Archbishop Oscar Cruz, Sorsogon board member Rebecca de Leon-Aquino and Rodolfo Hizon III.

ZUCE

Pimentel has also asked that subpoenas be issued to the Pinedas and Armand Sanchez.

For the first time since the inquiry opened in June, only Villar's committee on public order will be conducting the hearing today.

Lapid has withdrawn his committee on games, amusement and sport from the joint investigation, saying he believed Zuce's testimony would not contribute to his committee's report as the latter's story was mere hearsay.

He said that his committee had enough information to be able to draft a report on the legalization of jueteng. But Lapid said he would be attending today's hearing.

Meanwhile, administration Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago has proposed that Villar and Lapid conduct one last hearing on the issue as the the impeachment complaint against the President was due to be transmitted to the Senate from the House.

"I think we should conclude the hearings because these might be overtaken by the impeachment proceedings. It's not good if the resolution of the two committees would contradict the decision of the Senate as a whole (during the impeachment)," she said.

Besides, members of both investigating committees had agreed to give Cruz one last chance to present his witnesses, she said.

Villar said he was keen on wrapping up the inquiry if no new witness shows up in today's hearing.

"If nothing happens tomorrow, or no witness shows up, we can wrap this up tomorrow," he said.

Impeachment case vs GMA faces new hurdle

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE IMPEACHMENT complaint filed against President Macapagal-Arroyo is still in danger of being junked despite the move by the House of Representatives to adopt the same impeachment rules that were applied to former president Joseph Estrada in 2000.

Ilocos Sur Rep. Salacnib Baterina noted that the impeachment rules of the 11th Congress did not contain provisions allowing amendments or the consolidation of the impeachment complaints.

"In the rules of the 11th Congress, there is no provision for amendment. The rules we were proposing did have a provision on amendment. That would have been better. (But) now, how do we go about it if there are no rules to follow with regard to amendment?" Baterina said.

On Monday, the House approved the adoption of the impeachment rules of the 11th Congress which allows the automatic transmittal of the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate for trial once it is signed by a third of the 236-member chamber.

But Baterina said the old rules also have no provision on consolidation.

House Majority Floor Leader Prospero Nograles and Baterina said it would be up to the House committee on justice to decide whether to accept the opposition's amended complaint or recognize either of the two other complaints filed against the President.

Should the committee decide to reject the amended complaint, the opposition must muster the required 79 votes to override the committee's decision in the plenary, they said.

"It's now up to the committee on justice to decide whether to consolidate, to accept, or to reject one or all of these complaints," Nograles said.

Besides the opposition's amended complaint, two other complaints—the original filed by lawyer Oliver Lozano and the one filed by lawyer Jose Rizalino Lopez—were referred to the justice committee.

Nograles said that if the justice committee decides not to recognize the amendment complaint, they could still challenge that decision before the plenary if they had one-third of the House, or 79 votes, with them.

"If that happens, a vote would still be taken by the plenary. And if they get 79, then that will reverse the ruling of the justice committee," he said.

But Nograles and Batterina said that should the minority gather 79 votes, it does not mean that the complaint would automatically be transmitted to the Senate.

"It is not that when (they) have 79 or 80 signatures, we automatically transmit that to the Senate, bypassing everybody. We want to make that very very clear... that the 79 has to be verified at the time of filing and by vote of roll call," Nograles said.

As this developed , the House is set to issue today a warrant of arrest against ex-Commission on Elections Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano who has refused to appear before the congressional inquiry into the "Hello Garci" audio tapes.

Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla, chair of the lead House committee, said that a separate warrant would be issued against former National Bureau of Investigation deputy director Samuel Ong. *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*

Sandra Cam faces more legal woes

By DJ Yap

MORE LEGAL battles ahead for this self-confessed jueteng bagwoman.

Sandra Cam has been charged with issuing bad checks worth P260,000 by her former landlady for the rental of two apartments in Manila.

Susan Sandejas-Gomez filed 13 counts of violating Batas Pambansa 22, or the bouncing checks law, against Cam in two separate complaints before the Quezon City prosecutor's office yesterday.

The charges would be added to the string of libel complaints filed by persons Cam had implicated in the Senate jueteng inquiry, where she linked members of the First Family to alleged payoffs for the illegal numbers game.

Gomez said Cam issued checks totaling P180,000 as payment for the rental of her two-story apartment at 1072 Estrada St., Malate, and another P80,000 for the rental of 1074 Estrada Street, Malate, beginning in 2003.

Based on the terms of the contract, Cam had agreed to pay her former landlady postdated checks for each year that Cam's World Link Management and Training Services Inc., a caregiver training school, was renting the place, said Gomez.

She added that Cam had misrepresented herself as a provincial board member of Masbate.

The 13 postdated checks issued from April 2003 to January 2004 had either bounced or were no longer honored by the bank as the account had been closed, said Gomez.

She added that she filed an estafa case against Cam in July 2004 for allegedly closing the bank accounts that covered the postdated check payments.

The Quezon City fiscal initially junked the complaint, but was now reviewing the case after Gomez filed a motion for reconsideration.

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GMA allays senators' fears about unicameral

By Philip C. Tubeza

IN A bid to allay senators' qualms about Charter change, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday clarified that she has not indicated that she preferred a unicameral, parliamentary system that would lead to the abolition of the Senate.

"I can understand the reluctance of some senators. A couple of them have told me that institutionally, they don't want the Senate to be abolished. But I have never advocated a unicameral system," the President said in an interview with ANC television late Monday.

The President wants to fast-track Charter change through a consultative assembly as the ultimate solution to the ongoing political crisis.

Proponents of a shift into a parliamentary system said the country could choose to adopt either the British model which has a single body of lawmakers and is led by a prime minister and a ceremonial head of state, or the French model which has a bicameral legislature and is led by a strong president and a prime minister.

In a briefing, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that any form would be an improvement over the presidential system where legislative and executive functions are separated.

"In a parliamentary system, these functions are fused and in that sense you reduce the gridlock in lawmaking and implementation of laws," Bunye said.

Ms Arroyo's proposal has been heartily accepted by the House of Representatives but cold-shouldered by the Senate—only three senators support Charter change, far short of the 18 needed to have it passed.

Senators object to Charter change partly because they want the amendments done through the more costly and tedious constitutional convention but mainly because they do not want to lose their job.

BIR sitting on Iggy case?

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NEW finance and internal revenue officials have not acted on the tax evasion case against Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo, the brother of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, despite the Department of Finance and the Bureau of Internal Revenue having completed the gathering of evidence on the case weeks ago.

According to highly reliable sources, the complaint against Iggy Arroyo was already finished and ready for filing with the Department of Justice even before the resignation of former BIR commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. and former finance secretary Cesar Purisima last July 8.

The Arroyo case should have been one of the projects under the Rate (Run After Tax Evaders) program, the finance department's intensive campaign to snare high-profile tax dodgers and take them to court:

But the sources said that the new finance secretary, Margarito Teves, and the BIR officer-in-charge, Jose Mario Buñag, have strangely become silent on the case that the DoF and BIR were once eagerly pursuing.

The BIR earlier confirmed that it was investigating Iggy Arroyo, the Negros Occidental congressman, for alleged tax evasion, while the DOF had said it was in the process of gathering evidence and would file the case with the DOJ as soon as the report was completed.

According to the sources, Iggy Arroyo owns a tobacco plantation and sugar milling facility in Bacolod City, and that his business was found to have been under-declaring its income.

"Investigations revealed that his firm had only been declaring a small fraction of its real income. He was supposed to be charged with under-declaration of taxes," said one source.

Asked about the progress of the case of Iggy Arroyo, Teves said he was not aware of its status, and that he had yet to be updated by his subordinates.

Buñag denied that the gathering of evidence was already finished, and said the BIR would file the case once the investigations are completed.

But the sources said Parayno, who headed the investigation himself, had made known to some revenue and finance officials that the investigation was already complete.

The INQUIRER earlier reported that Iggy Arroyo was the second-richest lawmaker in Congress, with a declared net worth of P286.3 million (total assets of P314.1 million minus P27.8 million in liabilities).

Moro rebs' homes rebuilt

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE DEPARTMENT of Social Welfare and Development has turned over to some 50 families of former Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) members and supporters in Lanao del Norte their own houses which they helped build.

The DSWD said Commander Lucky 7, an MILF leader and one of the recipients of the shelter assistance project, expressed his gratitude to the government.

The MILF commander's house and those of his supporters were razed by fire when bombs were dropped there by the military during the armed conflict in 2003.

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Noli off to Saudi with GMA's sympathies

By Christine O. Avendaño and Cynthia D. Balana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo on Monday expressed the country's deepest sympathies to the royal family and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the death of King Fahd, whom she described as a "compassionate and kind leader."

Vice President Noli de Castro left yesterday for Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to represent the country during the burial of the Saudi king, who died Monday after a lingering illness.

"His Royal Highness King Fahd was a compassionate and kind leader who touched the lives of many around the world with his benevolence and humanity," Ms Arroyo said in her statement.

She also described the late Saudi king as a "stalwart of peace, a beacon of hope and tolerance, and a leader who stood his ground on the war against terror."

The President said the late king was on top of the kingdom's transformation into a progressive society.

"A society that does not allow extremism to take a foothold, and a society that has provided livelihood and gainful employment to overseas workers from around the world, including hundreds of thousands of Filipinos," Ms Arroyo said.

De Castro, accompanied by his wife Arlene, was met by Philippine Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Banhnarim Guinommla at the Riyadh International Airport and headed straight to the guest house to condole with the king's family led by his half-brother and successor to the throne, Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz.

De Castro, who is also the presidential adviser on overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), paid tribute to King Fahd as "a champion of skilled Filipinos."

He said that during King Fahd's reign, many OFWs and their families were given opportunities and better jobs.

He also said that the earnings of OFWs based in the kingdom significantly contributed in improving Philippine dollar reserves.

De Castro will be back in Manila on Friday.

In Cotabato, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) chair Ebrahim Murad conveyed their deepest sympathies to King Fahd's royal family, the custodian of the two Holy Mosques in Mecca and Medina.

Murad's message was contained in an official letter addressed to King Fahd's successor, his half-brother, Crown Prince Abdullah, who has been virtually at the helm of power after King Fahd suffered a stroke on Nov. 29, 1995.

Murad's letter will be coursed through the Saudi Embassy in Manila and is expected to be sent to Saudi Arabia.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said King Fahd's death was a loss not only to the people of Saudi Arabia but also to the entire Muslim community.

"We hope that Fahd's successor, his half-brother, Crown Prince Abdullah will continue his program – promoting among leaders strong ties," Kabalu said.

Nearly 365,000 Filipinos live and work in Saudi Arabia, one of the largest groups among eight million Filipinos who work overseas.

A controversial monarch who ascended the throne in 1982, the late King Fahd reigned for 23 years over a country that accounts for 25 percent of the world's oil supply and home to important historic Moslem cities of Mecca and Medina.

King Fahd, 83, had been in the hospital since May 27, when he was admitted with acute pneumonia. He had a reputation as an administrator and international diplomat. ***With Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau and AFP***

Chinese envoy says Northrail is above board

THE CHINESE Embassy has defended the $530-million Northrail project as above board and "just and legal," according to the North Luzon Railways Corporation

A press statement released by Northrail quoted Chinese Ambassador Wu Hongbo as warning critics against dragging the project into their political campaign against the Arroyo government.

"What I am wary of is that the endless debates on this above-board contract may send a negative message to other Chinese investors and other foreign investors as a whole," Wu told a recent diplomatic reception in Manila.

"We are being dragged unnecessarily. I don't want to get into your endless political debates…This commercial contract is above board. We have nothing to hide," the Chinese envoy said. He expressed surprise why the political opposition is "making a fuss" out of the $530-million loan from China for the building of the first modern railway system in the country.

"That would certainly not serve the best interest of the Filipino people and that would do harm than do anything good," Wu said.

He said the loan agreement had been scrutinized in detail by the Philippine departments of Foreign affairs and Finance before it was signed by the Philippine and Chinese governments last year.

Loan agreement

The loan agreement between China and the Philippines will build Phase I of the Northrail Project covering the 32.138-km Caloocan-Valenzuela segment with the construction of six stations in Caloocan, Valenzuela, Marilao, Bocaue, Guiguinto and Malolos in Bulacan.

According to estimates, the project would cost at least P882-million per kilometer of a double-track system – not a single track as the opposition earlier alleged.

In breaking with President Macapagal-Arroyo and calling for her resignation, Senate President Franklin Drilon had claimed that the project was overpriced. Northrail, in response, said Drilon was misinformed since the project was double-tracked.

The Chinese Embassy attaché Peng Xiubin said the loan provided by China to the Philippines has the lowest interest rate payable over 20 years and not the normal 10 years. China's standard rate for loans is 7 percent for a period of 10 years. "The preferential loan for the Philippines has been set for 3 percent for a maximum period of 20 years," Xiubin said.

"What we provided to the Philippines is a preferential loan for an important ally," he added. Ambassador Wu and Xiubin made the clarifications in the wake of wild accusations that the Northrail contract is anomalous and its provisions onerous.

Stressing that the Chinese government will honor its obligations under the contract, having "invested nearly $1 billion for that project."

However, he said, such help can only be effective if matched with local enthusiasm and support.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, August 3, 2005
18th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Num 13:1-2,25-14:1,26-29,34-35
Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Now a Canaanite woman came from those borders and began to cry out, "Lord, Son of David, have pity on me! My daughter is tormented by a demon." But Jesus did not answer her, not even a word. So his disciples approached him and said, "Send her away: see how she is shouting after us."

Then Jesus said to her, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the nation of Israel."

But the woman was already kneeling before Jesus and said, "Sir, help me!" Jesus answered, "It is not right to take the bread from the children and throw it to the little dogs." The woman replied, "It is true, sir, but even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their master's table." Then Jesus said, "Woman, how great is your faith! Let it be as you wish." And her daughter was healed at that moment.

Commentary

Jesus leaves his own place and go out to the cities. He is being rejected by his own: both leaders and people and his own disciples are having trouble with what's happening. A Canaanite woman (the original dwellers in the land) cries out to him, shadowing him to help her daughter. And Jesus ignores her. The disciples want him to shut her up. They are in foreign territory among gentiles and the last thing they want is a scene. But the woman is relentless and no matter what Jesus says or does, she responds and comes back at him—and he is delighted and amazed. She gets what she needs—her daughter's healing and Jesus gets what he needs-recognition that he belongs to the whole world, not just Israel. It is the turning point of Matthew's gospel—Jesus turns towards the world.

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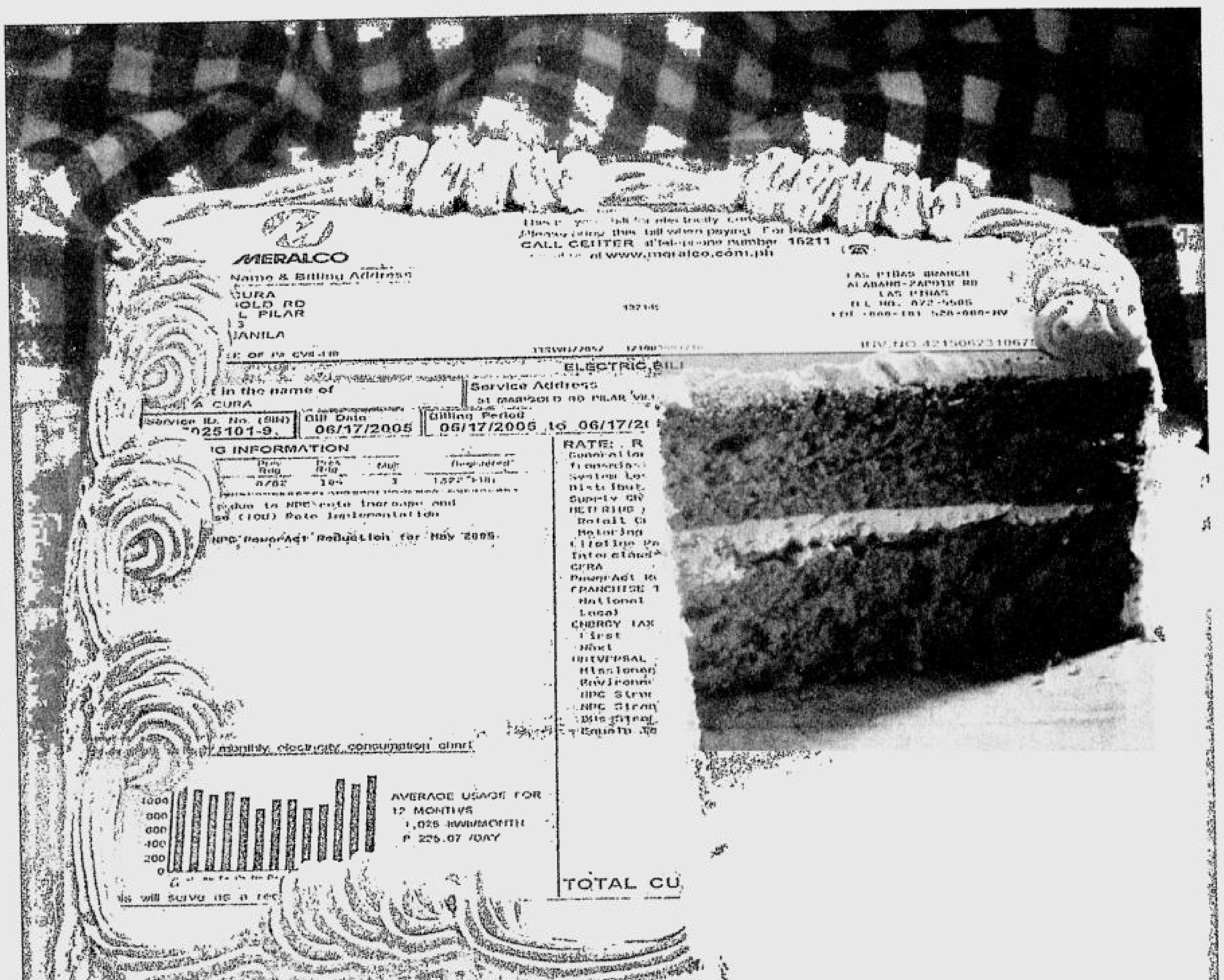

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ASIA'S NOBEL PRIZE

Indon graft buster leads Magsaysay awardees

AN INDONESIAN high school teacher who became the Muslim country's anti-graft crusader has been awarded Asia's equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

The Manila-based Ramon Magsaysay Foundation named Teten Masduki on Monday as one of this year's six winners for his work exposing graft and campaigning for public integrity in Indonesia, where corruption is deeply entrenched.

Last year, the corruption watchdog headed by Masduki examined 432 graft cases involving state agencies, banks, utility companies and even the tsunami relief agency.

"In electing Teten Masduki to received the 2005 Magsaysay Award for public service, the board of trustees recognizes his challenging Indonesians to expose corruption and claim their right to clean government," the foundation said in a statement.

Masduki, 42, is the head of Indonesia Corruption Watch (ICW), Jakarta's public clearing house for information about corruption.

Since 1998, ICW has been soliciting reports on corruption and nepotism from the public, investigating, publicizing and passing them on to the authorities for action.

Born into a family of farmers, Masduki studied chemistry in college and was a high school teacher before becoming an activist and anti-graft crusader.

"I don't agree with the idea that corruption rules our culture," he said in a statement released by the foundation.

The other award winners were:

- Jon Ungphakorn, a member of the Thai Senate who fought for the rights and needs of least advantaged citizens, for government service.
- Dr. V. Shanta, an Indian doctor who researched and advocated cancer research, for public service.
- Sombath Somphone, a Lao agriculture expert who founded the Participatory Development Training Centre to help Lao farmers achieve food security, for community leadership.
- Matiur Rahman, the editor of Bangladesh's Prothom Alo who crusaded against acid attacks against women and stirred Bangladeshis to help its many victims, for journalism, literature and creative communication arts.
- Hye-Ran Yoon, a Korean civil society leader who organized social welfare in her native Cheonan for vulnerable sectors, for emergent leader.

The foundation said there was no awardee this year in the peace and international understanding category.

The Ramon Magsaysay Award was established in 1957 in honor of the third Philippine President.

Reuters

Naia offers assistance – for a fee

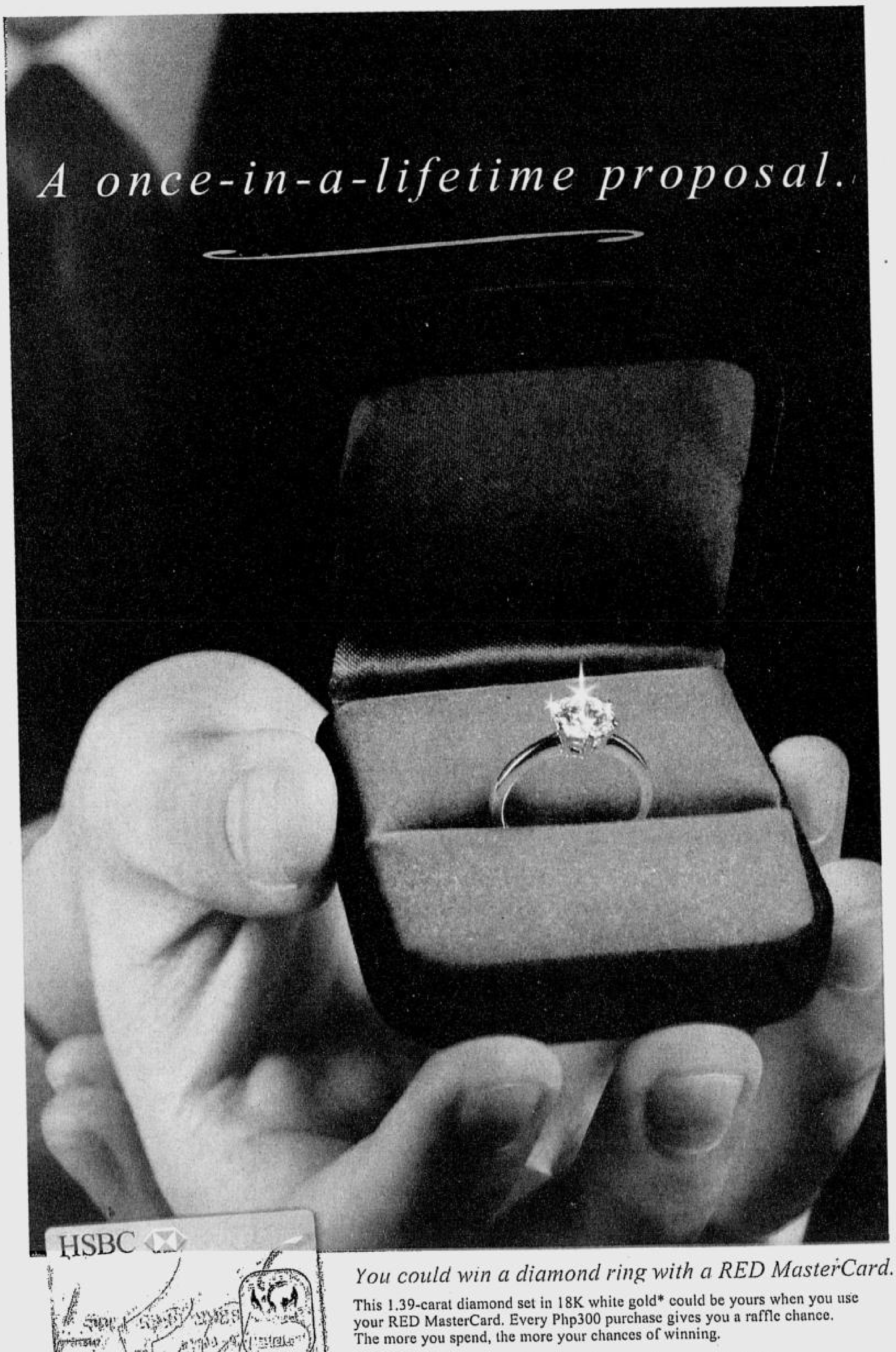
By Nikko Dizon

THE MANILA International Airport Authority (Miaa) has begun to charge fees for special passenger assistance requests – primarily to provide additional passenger service and generate revenues, and on the side, curb the rampant illegal escort service practiced at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia).

The "Meet and Assist Service" (MAS) can be availed of by "private individuals and entities who are willing to pay a premium for a more convenient and comfortable airport reception/send off," the Miaa said in a statement released yesterday.

For many years, unscrupulous individuals – allegedly from various airport service units and even the media – have reportedly been providing an "illegal escort service" to extort money especially from arriving passengers by offering to assist them and expedite customs, immigration, and quarantine (CIQ) clearance.

The Miaa said that with MAS, requesting parties are encouraged to transact only with the agency's Public Affairs Office (PAO) and the Department of Tourism (DOT), the only government agency at the airport authorized to provide passenger assistance, because of its more affordable rates.



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Rotarians reaffirm vow to spur economic growth

By Tina G. Santos

ROTARIANS reaffirmed their commitment to spur economic development and self-sufficiency in rural and urban communities during the one-day National Conference on Rotary Community Corps (RCC) held yesterday at the Manila Hotel.

The RCC program (formerly known as Rotary Village Corps or RVC), which started in 1985, has four major goals: To encourage individuals to take responsibility for the improvement of their community, village, or neighborhood; to recognize the dignity and value of all useful occupations; to mobilize self-help activities and collective work to improve the quality of life; and to encourage the development of human potential to its fullest, but within the context of the local culture and community.

For instance, members of the RCC in Maglaoi, Philippines, are raising and selling piglets to benefit the local community.

In Quezon City, the RCC of Barangay Roque has built a new water system for the Juan Sumulong High School to help reduce the rate of water-borne diseases. The system directly benefits 3,000 students in the community.

Rotarian Antonio Tambunting, former district governor and chair of the RVC Foundation, announced at yesterday's press conference also in the Manila Hotel, his plans to launch a fund-raising campaign to help some 200 children with congenital disease. Through the RVC Foundation's "Gift of Life" program, Tambunting expects to raise P15 million pay for the children's surgery.

Rotary International president William "Bill" Boyd, keynote speaker at conference, discussed the Rotary's most notable international project, Polio-Plus—dedicated to the global eradication of polio.

Since the project began in 1985, "Rotarians have contributed over $500 million and tens of thousands of volunteer man-hours, leading to the inoculation of more than one billion of the world's children," Boyd said.

Inspired by Rotary's commitment, the World Health Organization (WHO) passed a resolution in 1988 to eradicate polio by 2000. Now in partnership with WHO and Unicef, Rotary is recognized by the United Nations as the key private partner in the worldwide effort to eradicate polio.

First Couple no mood to celebrate 37th

THAT UNSINKABLE look: President Arroyo before the start of the Cabinet meeting with Secretaries in prayer (from left) PITC Roberto Pagdanganan, Tourism Ace Durano, Health Francisco Duque, Public Works Hermogenes Ebdane, Executive Eduardo Ermita and DOJ Raul Gonzalez held at Aguinaldo State Dining room in Malacañang Palace.

EDWIN BACASMAS

From page A1

deathbed," said Soliman. "He is still in mourning."

Arroyo was on his 25th day of voluntary exile in the United States when Llora died of congestive heart failure. She was buried yesterday morning.

"They were kind of close, they were always there for each other. Even when they grew old, they continued to have lunch every Sunday together with the family," Soliman said.

Bunye could not say when the First Gentleman would leave the country and continue his new life with his son, Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo, abroad.

A family decision

"I have the impression that (his departure) will be after the burial but I don't know how soon," Bunye said. "There's a decision for him to stay out of the country. That's a family decision, we have to respect that."

The First Gentleman and his son decided to temporarily leave for abroad to ease the political pressure on the President after they were both accused of receiving "jueteng" payola.

In a television interview on Monday, Ms Arroyo said she never shed a tear even at the height of the political crisis battering her administration.

"I have steeled myself to a philosophy that feelings are not important to a president ... I sought the presidency, then I have to accept that it's part of the job, especially in a deteriorating political system like ours," she told ANC television.

Turning to God

Ms Arroyo admitted feeling "sad" about sending her husband and family abroad due to jueteng charges against them.

"But feelings are not important for the presidency. If this is what I have to do to reduce the political intrigue and distraction for my governance, so be it."

She said she had turned increasingly to her faith in God and the memory of her father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal-Arroyo, to keep her through the political storm.

"I've always said he (the Lord) is my best friend and the one that I share my innermost thoughts with," she said.

Talking with father

"One thing I learned last year, when I was making the rounds of convents after the election and canvassing, was to look always for Divine Will and the timing will be perfect."

Aside from praying the rosary, Ms Arroyo said she conversed with her father.

"I talk to my father, 'Dad, please help me, intercede with God for me.' I always remember the things my father said—God first, then country before family."

On her estrangement from one of her most ardent supporters, former President Corazon Aquino, Ms Arroyo said she was "sorry that it happened."

GMA 'brilliant, tenacious,' ...

From page A1

ye said the President was ready to undertake political reforms because she had put in place her economic and fiscal reforms.

"If we can somewhat reduce the political noise, we are confident that the reforms would be able to take off," Bunye said.

At a media forum the other day, Mussomeli also commented on the political crisis, which Malacañang no doubt found comforting.

The US diplomat doubted, for example, whether the Arroyo administration still faced the risk of a coup d'état, noting that the military's declaration to remain neutral was a "silver lining" that had emerged out of the crisis.

He also said the President could still "turn public opinion around."

Mecca for terrorism

Mussomeli knows how sentiments can be turned around considering an episode he had with the DFA in April.

The department then issued a note verbale to the US official to protest his description of certain parts of Mindanao as the next "Afghanistan" and "Mecca for terrorism." The department said such remarks, which Mussomeli made on Australian TV, was unfair to those who have worked for years to build peace in Mindanao.

But at yesterday's awarding rites, Romulo lauded Mussomeli for his role in forging RP-US agreements in various fields, from military reform, law enforcement, economic development, to science and technology.

This time around, Romulo cited the US diplomat's "significant contribution ... to the promotion and sustainment of peace and development in Mindanao."

DARRYL JOHNSON, a former American envoy to Thailand, replaces Mussomeli as charge d' affaires.

RYAN LIM

Mussomeli will be replaced as US deputy chief of mission to Manila by former US Ambassador to Thailand Darryl Johnson, who was also present at the awarding ceremony.

The outgoing chargé d'affaires first served in Manila as a consular officer from 1984 to 1986. He was again posted in the country in August 2002. His wife Sharon and daughter Alexis were both born in the Philippines.

The Bush administration has nominated Kristie Anne Kenny to replace former US Ambassador to Manila Francis Ricciardone. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

Zuce not just Palace 'functionary'

From page A1

but said the prices had "tripled after the elections."

"That P10 was very cheap, that's the pre-election price. There was a different rate after the elections," the source said, speaking on condition that he would not be named.

Biazon's strategist said he met Zuce when both were with the Lakas party during the 2001 elections.

Odd jobs

He said Zuce was assigned assorted campaign work, like delivering campaign paraphernalia and sample ballots just as election day neared.

The nature of his work exposed Zuce to governors, mayors and even the election officials, the source said.

He said that there were many who were assigned similar tasks as Zuce's. Most of these "functionaries" were handled by Jose "Joey" Ma. Rufino, then the Lakas executive director.

"These people have been neglected. I expect more of them to come out," he told the INQUIRER.

He said the problem began when Rufino got sick, and his office was "downsized" and the staff reassigned to various offices. Zuce, for instance, was assigned to the office of Ray Roquero.

Barbers himself appeared to have approached Zuce's uncle, former Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

In the controversial wiretapped conversations, a man who introduced himself as "Senator Barbers" is heard as requesting Garcillano for help in ensuring a successful senatorial bid.

A transcript of the wiretap shows President Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, expressing concern over Barbers' senatorial bid on two occasions during the balloting.

Biazon was finally proclaimed the winner on June 2, but Barbers filed a petition to annul Biazon's victory. In a recent ruling, the Supreme Court dismissed Barbers' petition, saying it was not the proper forum to resolve his election protest.

Many operators

But in a telephone call during the heat of the counting after the May 2004 elections, Zuce hinted to Biazon's political strategists that "there were many operators in the hotel who were also working for other senatorial candidates who were not yet sure about entering the winning list."

Zuce was reportedly the "Louie" who was supposed to have been wiretapped while talking to Garcillano, on May 28, 2004, as shown in the wiretap transcript.

The political strategists told the INQUIRER they were prepared to testify before a proper forum.

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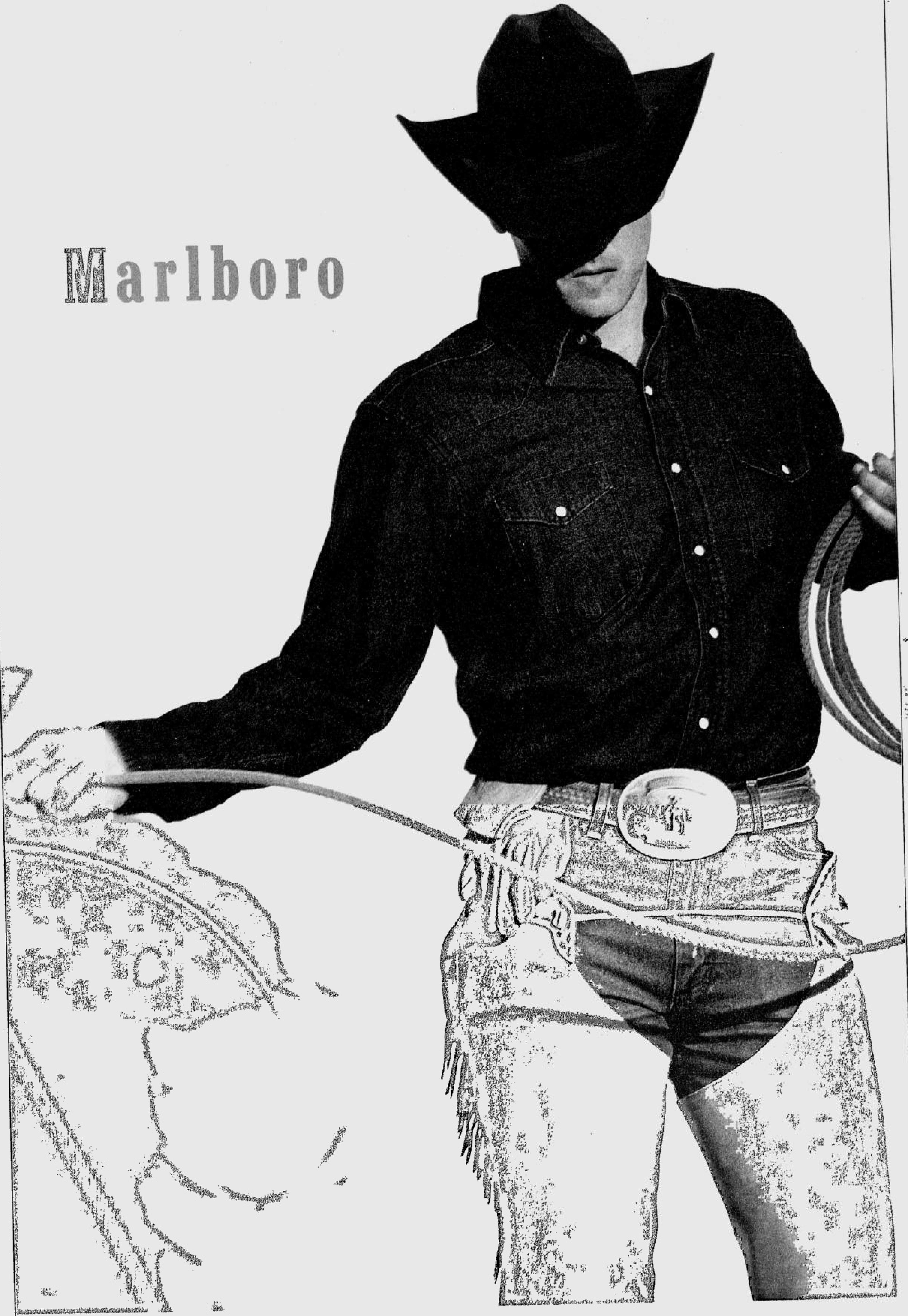

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LYN RILLON

BIG TROUBLE hit the Palace when Michaelangelo "Louie" Zuce began talking.

VO S. JAVIER
HON. MEHOL K. SADAIN
COMMISSIONER
ERIK ARAZAS

COMING to the defense of their beleaguered institution, Comelec officials hold a press conference at the Palacio del Gobernador on Tuesday. Zuce's disclosures are only the latest scandal to break out against the poll body. From left Comelec Commissioners Resurreccion Borra, Rufino Javier, chair Benjamin Abalos, Mehol Sadain and Florentino Tuazon Jr.

Palace now mum on Zuce allegations

From page A1

repeated what other Malacañang officials had said in dismissing Zuce as a minor Palace functionary and reissuing a statement signed by Zuce's former boss, Secretary Jose Ma. Rufino.

Bunye also refused to give details of how a denial statement of Zuce's claims was obtained from Rufino, who was reported to be gravely ill. *(Story on Page A1.)*

Shooting the messenger

Instead of disputing one by one Zuce's allegations, Malacañang officials felt it more convenient to shoot down the messenger.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, in an interview with dzXL radio, said Zuce "put in too many details in the story to give more drama to his revelation and to make his listeners believe him."

"What kind of person is that who works in a group and suddenly goes to the other side and squeals on everything that went on the other side," said Ermita who noted that the burden of proof was on Zuce and not on Malacañang.

"That has already been denied by the President. I think I would believe the President more than someone who is just making up stories," Ermita said.

He even lectured media for giving time to these type of characters.

"Not all people that want to speak and sing should be given a microphone and be allowed to sing. Not all roosters that crow loudly are fit to fight in a cockfight."

No dinner

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor also said no dinner was tendered for regional directors of the Commission on Elections at the President's La Vista home in January, as Zuce had claimed, or that each participant received P30,000 during the affair from Lilia Pineda, wife of "jueteng" (illegal lottery) lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda.

He accused the opposition of coming up with yet another demolition job to undermine the President's legitimacy and integrity.

"I served as a spokesperson of the President and was the one handling the schedules of the President. I [did] not schedule any (such dinner with election officials) at the time in January," Defensor said in an interview with the INQUIRER.

"Zuce won't be the last witness who'd come out. Many more would pretend and many more would say they know a lot of things about the last elections and the alleged fraud," Defensor said.

"I want him to look me in the eye and say that he was not asking for money and that he did not receive any (in exchange for his story)," said Defensor, who also called Zuce's dare that his detractors in the administration take a lie-detector test.

"Let him say when in January (did the dinner take place) and we'll talk," he added.

Opposition hand

Defensor said the opposition's hand in Zuce's coming out in press conference was quite visible with lawyer Liwayway Vinzons-Chato's involvement. A defeated senatorial candidate in the administration slate in 2001, Chato has since joined calls for Ms Arroyo to resign after the "Gloriagate" and "Jueteng-gate" exposés.

Defensor said that with his close working relationship with the President during those times, he'd know Ms Arroyo's meetings even if he was not physically present.

"I would know who was there in the meeting or I would know who the President would be talking with," he added, dismissing Zuce's story as incredible.

Akbayan party-list Representatives Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel and Mario Aguja called on all election commissioners to resign, beginning with Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos.

Abalos resign call

"With the seriousness of (Zuce's) allegations, the commissioners must assume command responsibility, let go of their posts to pave the way for an impartial investigation and a thorough restructuring of the Comelec," said Hontiveros.

In a press conference, Abalos denied Zuce's allegations, saying Comelec officials were "not that subservient."

"They are independent-minded people, they also have their honor and integrity to protect. Our people are not like that, they are not held on a leash by anybody. It seems that our directors are being portrayed as dogs that they can be dragged anywhere," Abalos said.

"Some quarters, in their relentless efforts to unseat the President are, in the process, dragging the Comelec into the mud," Abalos said.

Abalos also presented a new set of affidavits and memoranda from several regional election directors (REDs) and provincial election supervisors (PESs) identified by Zuce.

More denials

Francisco Pobe, Agusan del Sur PES, called Zuce's allegations "just a figment of his imagination with ulterior motives best described purely as malicious."

Juanito Icaro, Southern Tagalog director, also called Zuce's accusations "malicious."

Others who submitted their declarations of denial were Ray Sumalipao and Joseph Hamilton Cuevas, provincial election supervisors of Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur, respectively, during the May 2004 elections.

Acting ARMM Director Renato Magbutay and acting Davao Director Remlane Tambuang, respectively the assistant director of Zamboanga Peninsula and PES of Davao Oriental in 2004, also sent affidavits denying their involvement in the scandal.

Wilfredo Daraug, an election officer of Basilan, appealed to Zuce "not to implicate innocent people."

Lordino Salvaña, provincial election supervisor of Bukidnon, and Cirilo Nala, acting Comelec director for the Caraga Region, also dismissed Zuce's allegation as baseless. *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza, Jerome Aning, Dewey Yap, Edson C. Tandoc Jr., Grace Cantal-Albasin, Maricel Casino and Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Mystery shrouds Rufino statement

From page A1

"He is comatose. How can he write?" Zuce said on television yesterday, reacting to Rufino's statement released by Malacañang.

A relative of Rufino's yesterday told the INQUIRER that Rufino had improved and that, contrary to speculation, it was he himself who signed the statement denying tales of bribery and electoral fraud.

"He's getting better," the relative said, shortly after talking with Rufino over a mobile phone.

Not in ICU

"I am in a regular room, not in the intensive care unit, contrary to reports," the relative quoted Rufino as saying.

The relative said Rufino reiterated that he was "shocked and saddened" by his former technical assistant's accusations that payoffs were made to election officials at Ms Arroyo's residence in La Vista in Quezon City.

The timing of the release by Malacañang of Rufino's statement had fueled questions about whether he would have the stamina to prepare it.

The relative said Rufino even denied seeing Zuce and his "compadre," former Transportation Secretary Pelayo Battung, at anytime in the hospital.

'I've seen him'

The INQUIRER yesterday said that Zuce and Battung went to the hospital one afternoon sometime last week.

Battung himself told the INQUIRER that he had seen his compadre several times, the last time being last week to relay a request from opposition leaders for Rufino to testify against Ms Arroyo.

The opposition talked to Battung through lawyer Roy Señeres, former chair of the National Labor Relations Commission.

Having seen him with his own eyes, Battung told the INQUIRER on Monday that it might have been physically impossible for Rufino to take the witness stand.

The relative said his conversation was so brief that he didn't have the opportunity to ask Rufino about the circumstances surrounding his statement, such as how he was able to sign the document and who prepared it for him.

Warning from Lakas

Yesterday, Battung refused to talk to any newsman about Rufino's state of health. He has been warned by officials of the Lakas political coalition to stop talking about Rufino's health, according to a close friend.

The friend, who requested anonymity, said he talked to Battung shortly before he received the warning from the Lakas people.

"I talked to him and he was mad at reports that Secretary Rufino had issued that statement released by the Palace. He asked: 'How could he? Some people want to use him'," Battung was quoted by his friend as saying.

Rufino was said to have signed that statement prepared for him by Lakas officials in the presence of former President Fidel Ramos in the hospital a month ago, Battung's friend quoted him as saying.

Battung served as transportation undersecretary during the Ramos administration.

Zuce started approaching opposition leaders three weeks ago, telling them that he had damaging documents on Ms Arroyo and Rufino.

Zuce said he feared for his life as the Lakas people had begun looking for him.

That was about the time when administration people had been looking for Zuce, wondering where he was and why they could not reach him.

Palace stand

Palace officials maintained that the Rufino statement came from the ailing former presidential adviser.

Gabriel Claudio, presidential adviser for political affairs, also denied that Rufino saw Battung and Zuce last week.

Claudio, in a phone interview, said he was able to talk to Rufino at 11:30 a.m. yesterday and that the latter had asked him if he got the statement he issued Monday night.

Incredible and implausible

"I hope it was clear enough," Claudio quoted Rufino as telling him.

Palace officials dismissed Zuce's claims as "incredible" and "implausible," saying he was a mere functionary and would not have had the responsibilities Zuce said he bore as a Palace staffer.

Claudio said Rufino worked through an aide and a lawyer in preparing his statement.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said he received a copy of Rufino's signed statement Monday night from Claudio.

"Secretary Claudio said it came from Secretary Rufino and I take his word for it," Bunye said at a news briefing.

"Secretary Claudio said that Secretary Rufino expressed concern on the allegations of Mr. Zuce and he was concerned enough to come up with that reaction," he added.

The press secretary admitted that he was not able to talk to Rufino and that his latest communication with the latter was via text messages, the recent of which came on July 25, the day Ms Arroyo delivered her State of the Nation Address.

Bunye also said he did not have information about Rufino's condition.

Weak voice

Claudio described Rufino's voice as "very faint" but in their phone conversation. Claudio also took the opportunity to also deny the INQUIRER report about Zuce and Battung having visited Rufino at the hospital.

"They were never here," Claudio quoted Rufino as saying.

Claudio said if, indeed, Battung and Zuce made such claims, that would be "unethical."

"It would be unethical for certain political elements to take advantage or manipulate the physical condition of a patient to advance their partisan agenda, which is obviously to step up their attacks on the President and bring her down," Claudio told the INQUIRER.

He said he told Rufino not to worry about the controversies and not to allow these to affect his health.

An associate of Rufino, meanwhile, couldn't help but ask this question: "If Zuce was afraid for his life, why would he go and visit Joey Rufino?"

Perpetuate his testimony

Bunye was asked about Zuce's possible appearance at a Senate inquiry into jueteng.

"We believe that all of these allegations, if they believe these are strong allegations, should already be filed in the proper forum and this is the court," Bunye said.

Because of his failing health, Rufino should be asked to make a deposition to refute allegations against Ms Arroyo, administration supporters said.

"I urgently propose that there should be a perpetuation of Mr. Rufino's testimony, because his deposition would help to determine if Zuce is telling the truth," Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said.

Santiago said Rufino's deposition would be sealed and filed with a court and with the House committee to be used in its hearings on the impeachment case against Ms Arroyo or a trial at the Senate.

Exploitation

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. slammed Malacañang for extracting a statement from Rufino despite his condition.

"Gloria is not beyond exploiting even those who are about to meet their Maker," Pimentel said.

He said Malacañang should show proof that Rufino was "in full possession of his faculties" when he made and signed his statement.

Former National Labor Relations Commission chief Roy Señeres expressed doubts about the veracity of the Rufino statement.

"(Rufino) is in the ICU ... His liver is having problems and his stomach is bloated. How could he say so much? I doubt very much that the message came from him," Señeres told the INQUIRER. *With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana and Leila B. Salaverria*

Sandigan programmed to convict Erap—Saguisag

From page A1

been "programmed to do so."

Saguisag, in an interview with reporters, said the high tribunal created the antigraft court's special division despite opposition from the defense and the absence of any motion seeking its establishment.

"Since the beginning, we opposed the creation of a special division," Saguisag said in open court.

3rd time

He said this was the third time in the country's history that a special tribunal had been created to try an individual. He said the first two tribunals were military courts, which both convicted the accused—Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita and Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr.—despite the weak evidence against them.

Saguisag also accused the high court of "dishonest representation" because it had used a nonexistent petition—allegedly filed by the defense—to justify the creation of a special tribunal that would hear Estrada's plunder case.

Saguisag said he and his fellow defense lawyers had never petitioned the high court to create a special division.

The Supreme Court, in an en banc decision, created the special division exclusively to hear Estrada's plunder case, an offense punishable by death via lethal injection.

"We were not heard when the high court created the special division nor when it recently appointed two new alternate justices—Ma. Cristina Estrada and Godofredo Legaspi—for the special division despite the objections of the newly appointed justices," Saguisag said.

Aside from Estrada and Legaspi, the Special Tribunal is composed of Justices Teresita de Castro as presiding chair, Francisco Villaruz and Diosdado Peralta as regular members and Rodolfo Ponferrada as alternate member.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said Estrada's lawyers did not file any formal objections to the creation of the special division and insisted that it was the defense that had sought its creation in the first place.

Bail bid

Estrada, through his spokesperson former Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen, said there was no reason for the special division to deny his petition for bail since the evidence presented by the prosecution failed to show his guilt.

Estrada said it was clear based on the testimony of the witnesses that his prosecution was politically motivated.

"It was planned and executed by my political nemesis from the day I became president," Dilangalen, quoting Estrada, stressed.

Estrada said the public was finally beginning to see the truth behind the plunder charges against the former president during his 3-year-long trial at the Sandiganbayan.

"The record speaks for itself. The plunder case filed against me is based on fabricated charges. The truth speaks for itself. The truth is now coming out and the truth shall set me free," he said.

Las Vegas welcomes . . .

From page A1

teach at a Las Vegas high school. He is one of 51 teachers recruited from the Philippines under an international program designed to help meet a shortage of teachers in the fast-growing Clark County School District.

400 more needed

With the academic year starting Aug. 29, the Las Vegas-based district still needs to hire 400 full-time teachers, officials said.

The district, now the nation's fifth-largest, plans to open 11 new schools this month. It will have almost 296,000 students at 313 schools in the 2005-06 school year.

The teachers from the Philippines had to meet the credential requirements for Nevada teaching licenses, according to Lina Guiterrez, district executive director of licensed personnel.

Rozita Lee, regional leader of the National Federations of Filipino-American Associations, said a large Filipino community in southern Nevada would help the teachers adjust.

Many of the Filipino teachers said they were curious about living abroad.

Missing family

Potes said he looked forward to learning about the American educational system and hoped to share his experience with colleagues in the Philippines.

"I hope that my service will be good and they (the students) will be nice to me," he said.

Special education teacher Perla Mendoza, 36, said she would miss the Philippines.

"Especially my family," she said. "My family's still there, my husband, my children. Hopefully they will join me soon."

The Filipino teachers will also be sorely missed back home—the Philippine education system has a shortage of about 10,000 teachers. Low pay has prompted hundreds of teachers to seek work abroad. *AP*

5 doctors to pay P450 M more in taxes

By Cynthia D. Balana

FIVE Manila doctors have agreed to amend their tax declarations and pay additional taxes amounting to at least P450 million.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue said the doctors' positive act to cooperate with its effort to raise money for the government came barely a month after the bureau held tax briefings for medical practitioners from the Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital last June 29.

According to BIR officials who refused to name the taxpayers, the doctors filed their amended returns for 2000 to 2004 last July 8. The returns reflected substantial increases in their income tax payments.

The doctors also made an assurance that they would continue to support the bureau's tax programs.

The BIR commended the doctor's "laudable act" of voluntary compliance and for setting a good example among their colleagues in the medical profession.

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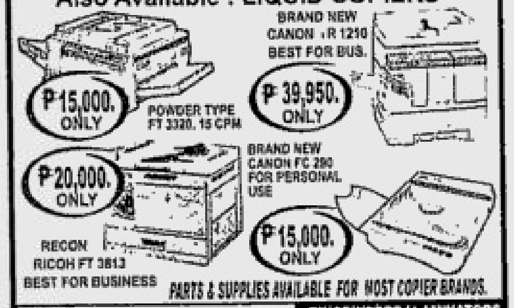
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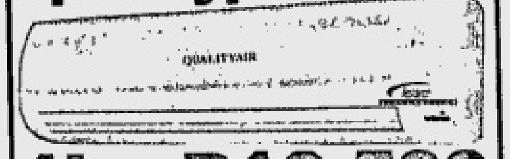

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New Saudi king to press fight vs terror

WASHINGTON—The administration of Saudi Arabia's new King Abdullah will step up cooperation with the United States in the fight against the "evil cult" of terrorism, a top official of the oil-rich state's embassy here said Monday.

Chargé d'affaires Rehab Massoud said that cooperation in the US-led "war on terror" would be the cornerstone of relations between the two allies, aside from working together in the economic field.

"Saudi Arabia will not stand for an evil cult using the Islamic faith as an excuse for mass violence," he told a news conference called to reaffirm Riyadh's close ties with Washington under King Abdullah's leadership.

He said Abdullah, in talks with US President George W. Bush at his Texas ranch during his visit to Washington in April, had "renewed our desire to be an ally both economically and in the war on terrorism."

The US-Saudi Arabia alliance was harshly tested by the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks on the United States in which 15 of 19 hijackers were Saudi.

But tensions began easing when Saudi Arabia, often accused in Washington of being lenient with terrorists, launched its own crackdown on al-Qaida network chief Osama bin Laden's disciples.

"During his tenure as crown prince, the relationship between our two nations was challenged as never before on Sept. 11, 2001," Massoud said. "The response was certain and unwavering" and relations "between our two great nations (will) become even stronger," he said.

Massoud also said Saudi authorities would cooperate closely with British investigators over the recent London bomb attacks.

Two of the men arrested for trying to bomb London's transport system on July 21 had links with Saudi Arabia, the Daily Telegraph newspaper reported Monday.

Hamdi Issac, also known as Hussain Osman, who was arrested on Friday in Rome, made a mobile telephone call to Saudi Arabia shortly before his arrest.

Friends of Muktar Said Ibrahim, who was captured after a siege in west London on Friday, said he went to Saudi Arabia in 2003 for two or three months for a "training course." He is said to have family in Saudi Arabia and lived there before coming to Britain as a teenager. *AFP*

AFP ABDULLAH

Saudis, world leaders bid farewell to King Fahd

RIYADH—Saudis and foreign dignitaries flocked to Riyadh on Tuesday for the funeral of King Fahd whose 23-year reign steered the oil-rich kingdom through turbulent decades rocked by wars and Islamist violence.

Mourners will be led by Fahd's half brother Crown Prince Abdullah, de facto ruler for a decade who was swiftly anointed king and powerful Defense Minister Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, new crown prince of the ultra-conservative Gulf kingdom.

Emphasizing the close ties Fahd forged with the Western world, French President Jacques Chirac and British heir to the throne Prince Charles were due in Riyadh on Tuesday to pay their last respects. Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito was also to attend.

Several Arab leaders, including Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, UAE President Sheikh Kahlifa bin Zayed al-Nahyan, Jordanian King Abdullah II were to attend the funeral of the man they have hailed as a great Arab leader.

Among leaders who have so far arrived were Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas and the presidents of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Mauritania, Senegal as well as the Sultan of Brunei and Mawlay Rashid, brother of the Moroccan king.

Before traveling to Riyadh on Tuesday, Pakistan's President General Pervez Musharraf said "King Fahd was a great leader of the Muslim world ... He played an active role in the emancipation and betterment of the Muslim" nation.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai, who was also to attend the ceremony, praised Fahd for supporting the "jihad" (holy war) against his country's 1979-1989 Soviet occupation.

The funeral will be held under tight security measures at the Imam Turki bin Abdullah mosque in the center of the capital, an interior ministry spokesperson said.

"Security forces will enforce tight measures along the routes which the convoys of dignitaries will take and at the location of the funeral ceremony," General Mansur al-Turki told AFP.

The late monarch, who carried the title of "custodian of the two holy mosques" in Mecca and Medina, Islam's holiest sites, will be laid to rest in an austere ceremony in line with traditions stemming from the strict Wahhabi doctrine of Islamic law which is predominant in Saudi Arabia.

After prayers at the Imam Turki mosque attended by the ruling family and Muslim leaders at around 3:30 p.m. (1230 GMT), the late king's body will be carried in an ambulance without military escort, to the Al-Od public cemetery. *AFP*

Deadly riots hit Khartoum after death of ex-rebel leader

KHARTOUM—Deadly rioting rocked the Sudanese capital on Monday after a helicopter crash killed Sudan's new vice president and ex-southern rebel leader John Garang, dealing a blow to a fledgling January peace deal that ended Africa's longest-running war.

Authorities imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew on the capital following the violence that erupted when thousands of people, some wielding knives and guns, took to the streets of Khartoum immediately after Garang's weekend death was confirmed.

Bursts of automatic gunfire could be heard and an AFP correspondent saw several people lying wounded, some possibly dead, while a European diplomat cited reports of dead bodies in streets where cars had been set ablaze.

The governor of Khartoum State said more than 20 persons were killed in the riots while many were injured.

Governor Abdel Halim al-Mutaafi said on state-run Sudan television that the losses "were tremendous, including tens of cars than were set ablaze," announcing that the State's Security Committee "has taken a number of measures, including an 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. curfew and a ban on gatherings, to maintain order in the state." Sudan TV also broadcast a statement by the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement (SPLM/A) which stressed that Garang's death was "an accident, contrary to rumors giving other reasons to the death," urging SPLM followers in particular to observe self-restraint.

Deng Macham, a senior Dinka Sultan in Khartoum, also addressed the southerners on television, speaking in Arabic and a Dinka language, calling on them not to listen to rumors and to take seriously what the SPLM had said.

"Don't believe those who tell you that John Garang was killed by Mondokuru (northerners). He died in an accident," said Macham.

Meanwhile, residents of the southern town of Juba, which is to become the capital of the southern region, said angry protesters had burned and vandalized businesses and property owned by northern Sudanese Arabs.

They are seen as close to the Islamic government in Khartoum against which the SPLM/A had until January fought for 21 years. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

London blast suspects

LONDON—British police made more arrests Monday over last month's failed bombings in London. Armed police raided three homes in South London and arrested two men under antiterrorism laws in connection with investigations into the attacks on July 21, the city's Metropolitan Police said. Two searches took place in Stockwell, where previous arrests have taken place, and also the location of the subway station where innocent Brazilian Jean Charles de Menezes was shot dead by police a day after the attacks. British police have now made 20 arrests linked to the botched July 21 attacks, when four suspected would-be suicide bombers targeted subway trains and a bus around London. *AFP*

Gaza pullout compromise

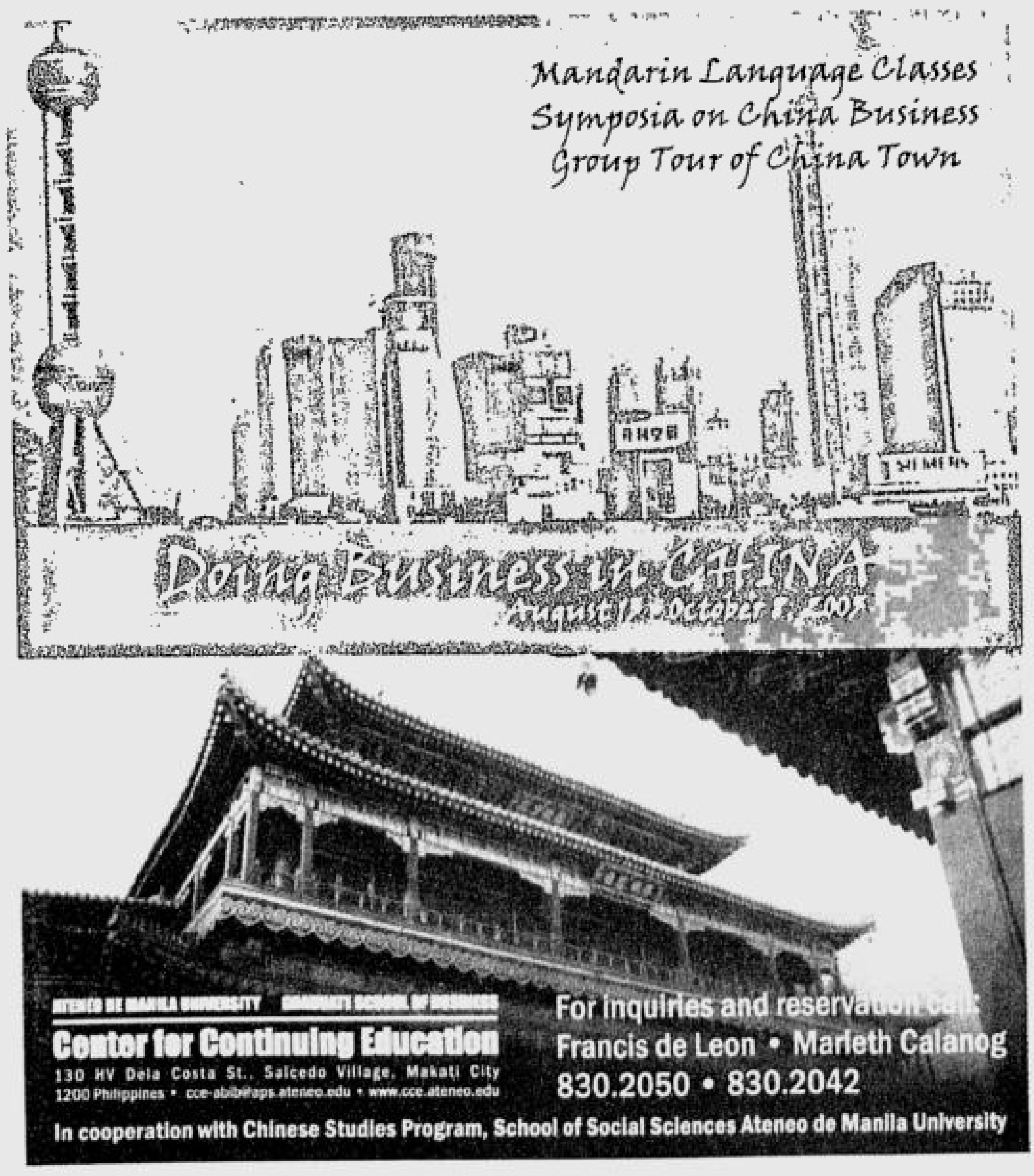
JERUSALEM—The Israeli police authorized a major demonstration against the withdrawal from the Gaza Strip under a compromise reached overnight with settlers' leader Bentzi Lieberman, he told Israeli public radio Tuesday. "We agreed thet this democratic mass demonstration will take place today at Sderot from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., and we hope there will not be incidents," said Lieberman, head of the Yesha settlers' lobby. Asher Levy, police chief for southern Israel, said the number of demonstrators had been limited, as had the length of the protest. A police official said the demonstrators would leave Sderot after the allotted time for Ofakim nearby in the Negev desert without trying to force their way through to the Gaza Strip which was decreed a military zone. *AFP*

Bush installs Bolton

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush bypassed the Senate and installed John Bolton as US ambassador to the United Nations on Monday over protests by Democrats that the combative critic of the world body would hurt US credibility. Five months after nominating Bolton, Bush appointed him in a subdued White House Roosevelt Room ceremony with Bolton beside him and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice standing nearby. "This post is too important to leave vacant any longer, especially during a war and a vital debate about UN reform. So today I've used my constitutional authority to appoint John Bolton as America's ambassador to the United Nations," Bush said. Bolton, 56, will be able to serve until January 2007, when a new Congress is sworn in. *Reuters*

Nuke talks differences

BEIJING—The United States said Tuesday it had failed to overcome key differences with North Korea in talks on its nuclear weapons programs, indicating negotiations were headed for a stalemate as they dragged into a second week. The United States admitted it was not seeing eye-to-eye with North Korea on disarmament issues as its struggled to persuade the Stalinist state to abandon its nuclear weapons programs and end a three-year standoff. "I need to be very clear that there are a lot of differences between the North Korean side on one hand and everyone else on the other hand," US envoy Christopher Hill said as he left his hotel for the meeting. *AFP*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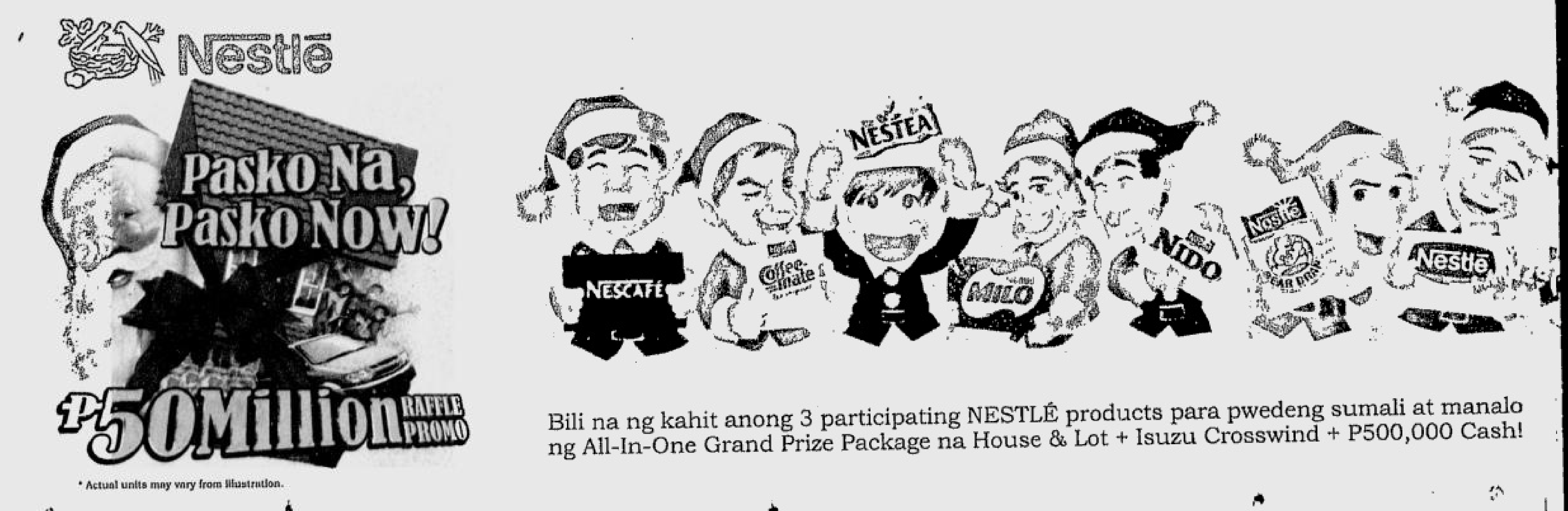
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Nasa orders emergency repairs on Discovery

HOUSTON, Texas—Nasa on Monday ordered an unprecedented repair operation on the Discovery shuttle to ensure it can make a safe return to Earth.

The US space agency decided to cut off two ceramic fibre strands hanging from the belly of the shuttle to end any "uncertainty" about whether it would be in danger on reentering the Earth's atmosphere, said Wayne Hale, deputy head of the US shuttle program.

Either Japanese astronaut Soichi Noguchi or American Steve Robinson will carry out the repairs during their third spacewalk of the mission on Wednesday, officials said.

Nasa experts are worried that the shuttle could overheat because of instability that the gap fillers, dangling from between thermal tiles on the underside of the shuttle, could cause.

"Given that large degree of uncertainty, life could be normal during entry or some bad things could happen," Hale told a news conference.

"We examined our options to set our minds at rest and make sure that we didn't stay up late at night worrying about bad things happening," Hale added.

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OPINION

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The key?

EDITORIAL

INCREDIBLE and implausible. That's what the Palace says of the testimony of Michaelangelo Zuce. President Macapagal-Arroyo herself has dismissed his testimony as the kind that's à la carte, meaning basically for sale.

But that's precisely why the testimony seems so engaging: if it has been scripted, it's better written than what's been peddled so far. And if it's for sale, then it may have enough truth to it, to be a hot property indeed.

With the low level of credibility all sides suffer from, the latest in a series of whistle-blowers paraded (or soon to be paraded) before Congress has one thing going for him: a proliferation of allegations that can be easily subjected to verification. Zuce has provided an interminable list of names, numbers, events and locations, all of which should lead to other witnesses who can verify—or demolish—his testimony. While Malacañang naturally wants to emphasize the witness' lack of importance in the political scheme of things, it can't avoid the fact that he once merited employment in a politically sensitive office. Neither can it avoid being put in the uncomfortable position of hearing the testimony of someone who at least has enough knowledge to come up with a tale that includes the President herself as a character, however the tale has been embroidered.

Malacañang ought to be very careful about impugning the testimony of Zuce, simply on the basis of his having been a low-level operative or even flunky. Our class-conscious society suffers from the delusion, common among the powerful, that their flunkies don't think, and thus, don't realize the full importance of what their employers do and say in front of them. Reporters routinely resort to interviewing waiters, janitors and household help to verify the movements and actions of people in the news. There is no reason why a low-ranking fly (admittedly, a pretty big and not very inspiring one) wouldn't have information damaging to his former superiors.

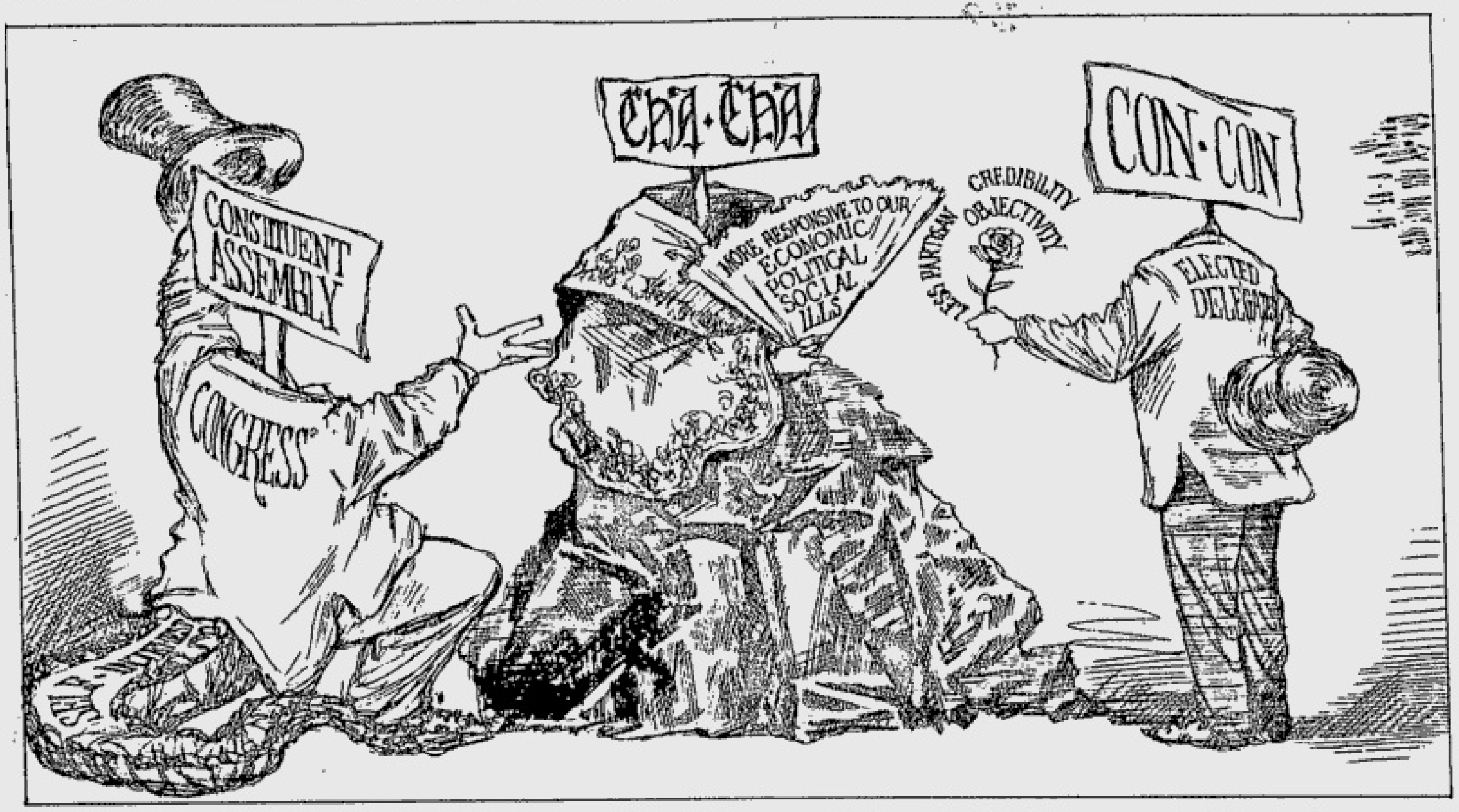
Unlike Ador Mawanay, who was easily proven to be a liar, or Sandra Cam, who has been easily proven to have the goods on retired Chief Supt. Restituto Mosqueda but no one else, except through hearsay, this new witness has made allegations that can be subjected to verification, at least on a circumstantial basis, on many levels. Reporters and other journalists have been feasting on Zuce's testimony precisely because his stories can be subjected to verification—and, conversely, be debunked—in many instances.

What is interesting, in fact, about Zuce's allegations is that it's marked throughout by the pedestrian nature of the corruption he claims to have taken place, and in which he participated. In contrast to Cam's exaggerated claims involving millions of pesos in bribe money, Zuce speaks of "gifts" in the range of tens of thousands of pesos: it is more believable that a person as piddling as the Palace says Zuce is would only have handled, and known of, relatively small sums. There is, after all, a hierarchy even among political crooks.

Certainly, by his own testimony, Zuce was a petty political crook, and undertook apparently unsavory tasks. Administration officials even say he wasn't a particularly hard worker, and didn't seem worth keeping on the payroll. Even his co-workers seem to have a low opinion of him. He is the kind of big-talking, wheeling-and-dealing posturer whose usefulness is so short-lived as to make it undesirable to keep giving him crumbs.

But all this doesn't mean he didn't see or hear something. It also means, that alone among the witnesses who have come forward so far, he is the only one the Palace can't deny as having come from within its fold. Thus, if he is such a disgraceful individual, it doesn't speak highly of his employers that they once found him worthy of being paid out of the public purse.

In the end, Zuce's testimony particularly in the impeachment trial, if it should come to that, will speak for itself. Either it will be proven to be a series of weak links, or links that make the chain stronger. After all the noise, this seems to be the only testimony that shows the potential of truly causing sleepless nights in the Palace.



Easy to check Zuce's revelations

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

IT would be easy to check the veracity of the testimony of Michaelangelo S. Zuce that President Macapagal-Arroyo held a dinner for Comelec officials at her La Vista, Quezon City, home in January last year, four months before the elections. (GMA reportedly asked for the help of the Comelec regional directors after which her *kumare* Lilia Pineda, wife of alleged *jueteng* lord Bong Pineda, allegedly distributed white envelopes containing money.) The security guards at the La Vista gates are supposed to keep a log book, as do security guards in other exclusive subdivisions, listing the visitors of residents inside the subdivision. That log book would show if an unusual number of people went to the Arroyo residence that night.

Zuce also said he had arranged for the accommodation of 27 election officials at the Rothman Hotel in Malate, Manila. The hotel's logbook should also show if 27 guests from Mindanao were booked on the date mentioned by Zuce.

Whether or not money was distributed at GMA's home depends on the witnesses and their evidence. Whether or nor GMA's camp actually cheated in the elections after the conversation between her and Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano caught on the tapes is already beside the point. Her own admission and circumstantial evidence show that GMA committed unethical acts before, during and after the elections which make her unfit to be President.

She was a candidate in the elections and it was highly unethical for her to even talk to Comelec officials or to entertain Comelec regional directors and election supervisors in her home. She has admitted that she had talked on the phone to Garcillano. The tapes caught them talking about ensuring a one-million-vote margin for her over FPJ. Some Comelec regional directors have said they had been invited to dinner at GMA's residence that fateful day in January last year, though they said they did not go. Though the others denied that they received any envelopes or that there was any such dinner, the others had no reason to lie by saying they were invited to dinner. The fact alone that a candidate entertained Comelec officials at her home before an election is already a violation of our laws and rules of ethical conduct.

No amount of media blitz or evasive answers can change those facts. She willfully violated our laws and that makes her unfit to be the leader of our nation.

* * *

Malacañang released a statement purportedly coming from former presidential liaison officer for political affairs Joey Ma. Rufino branding Zuce's revelations as "totally false."

"I am shocked and very much saddened by the wild accusations made today by Michaelangelo Zuce, who had been a technical assistant in my office," the statement said. Rufino appealed to Zuce to "retract his falsehoods" saying he (Zuce) was "condemning by publicity not only the President but hardworking regional and provincial officers of the Comelec."

"I and my office have never been involved in influencing, much less bribing, Comelec officials to support Lakas-NUCD candidates, including President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo," Rufino added.

Rufino, who is reportedly seriously ill with liver cancer, is confined at the intensive care unit of the Medical City in Pasig and "could hardly talk," according to friends who had visited him. How did he manage to write or dictate such a well-written statement so quickly?

* * *

One more piece of circumstantial evidence linking GMA and Garcillano is a document that fell into my hands. It is marked "Confidential" and was received by the Office of the President at 10:15 a.m. on Nov. 28, 2003. It is a letter from Garcillano to GMA, through Rufino, and it shows they knew each other since 2001. In the letter written from his home in Kauswagan, Cagayan de Oro City, Garci pleaded for his appointment as commissioner as a reward for his past services to her. The letter said:

"I hope I am not taxing your patience for repeatedly reminding you of my application for the position of Commissioner of the Commission on Elections. Although you have given me the hope of being appointed to that exalted position in case of vacancy, I still feel the need to remind you of my desire.

"On February 2, 2004, two of the incumbent Commissioners are retiring, namely Honorable Commissioners Ralph C. Lantion and Luzviminda G. Tancangco. Since February is only two months away, I am taking the liberty of appealing to Your Excellency to consider me for the said position. You are very busy and my name might escape your memory. Please allow me to refresh your memory about me.

"I am Atty. Virgilio O. Garcillano, the former Regional Election Director of Region 10, based in Cagayan de Oro City. I was one of those whom the First Gentleman approached when Your Excellency ran for Senator. I also had the pleasure of serving your party when Your Excellency requested me to monitor and/or protect the votes of the Lakas-NUCD Senatorial Candidates in Mindanao during the 2001 Election. After that election, Your Excellency generously shared your time and honored us with a dinner in the Palace. It was then that Your Excellency mentioned for the first time Your Honor's intention to make me one of the Commissioners.

"Appointment to that exalted position is literally like passing through the eye of the needle. I had been waiting for this opportunity. It is Your Excellency's imprimatur—Your final decision—that would relieve me of the agony of waiting for the appointment, Madam President.

"If given the opportunity, I will not put Your Excellency down .... "

Evangelizing

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

THERE'S this joke about an old man who says, "I do not smoke, I do not drink, I do not stay up late, I do not go to dingy clubs with loud music, and I do not carouse with women. That is why I can now celebrate my 85th birthday."

His friend asks him, "How?"

I remembered that joke when I read about Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales saying that though he is not a great fan of GMA, he doesn't think getting rid of her will do any good. "Is she the only corrupt president in this country?" he asks. Marcos was corrupt and the presidents who succeeded him—Cory Aquino, Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada—were corrupt as well. GMA is merely steeped in that tradition. Removing her won't solve anything.

"I want to evangelize people....I want to change people's mentalities and give them a real orientation in life."

Same question: How?

I agree entirely with Rosales' premises, but I disagree entirely with his conclusions. It's true, we've had a procession of corrupt presidents over the last decades. It's true, Marcos was a humongous thief and the memory of his crimes is fading. It's true, ousting GMA by itself won't solve all our problems.

None of that means we shouldn't oust GMA. Ousting GMA won't solve all our problems, but it sure as hell, or heaven, will solve a great many of them.

The fact that we've had a procession of corrupt presidents doesn't make stopping a current one less imperative, it makes it more so. If I recall my religion classes right, the point is to confront evil at every turn, not to run away from it at every turn. Or worse, to see the uselessness of confronting it in the here and now because evil teems anyway in the there and thereafter. You push Rosales' argument further, it is useless to protest George W. Bush's occupation of Iraq because conquistadors have filled the earth since time immemorial, the Attila the Huns of this earth will always be there, it is a product of original sin. So what do we do, gnash our teeth and tear out our hair well before we end up in hell?

The argument is not unlike the one GMA paraded at the Sona, which is that our *trapo* political culture is the root of all our evil. True, but some people contribute to it more than others, she most of all. You remove her and you hew down the roots of *trapo* politics. Or take very huge swings at it with the ax.

While at that, if we've had a procession of corrupt presidents for decades now, it is no small thanks to the Church, specifically to the kind of attitude Rosales sports. For some reason, the bishops discover the practical demands of the here and now when it comes to corrupt presidents they do not like but discover the irresolvable dilemma of evil throughout the ages when it comes to corrupt presidents they like. Jaime Cardinal Sin was like that—his morality was selective. He rose to heroic eloquence when faced with the corruption of Marcos and Erap, plucking out the moral imperative from the political retrogression, but lapsed to bovine contentment when faced with the corruption of Cory and GMA, taking in the survival of the fittest in moral evolution. What did Sin and Jose Concepcion like to quote? All it takes for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing. They were never more right—about themselves.

True enough, we may not forget about the sins of the past, notably Marcos'. But if this country forgets the sins of the past, it is also because its moral guardians refuse to see the sins of the present, and protest them. I've always said that what rehabilitated the Marcoses was not so much the policy of reconciliation that Cory took but the practice of thieving the Kamaganak Inc. took. The same is true of recent times: What has rehabilitated Erap is not the failure of the courts to prove him guilty, it is the person who succeeded him proving more crooked than he was. Current sins always drown out past ones. No, more than that, they blot out past ones in the eyes of a jaded people. You do not protest what is happening before you, you make people forget what has gone before.

I've always thought that there was a corollary to Rizal's famous aphorism that says, "*Ang hindi marunong lumingon sa pinanggalingan, hindi makakarating sa pinaroroonan*." That is: "*Ang hindi marunong tumingin sa kasalukuyan ay hindi makikita ang nakaraan.*" It's not just that those who can't see the past won't see the future. It's also that those who can't see the present won't see the past. Those things are as intricately woven as threads in fine cloth.

There is corruption and there is corruption, just as there is sin and there is sin, cardinal or not. Some sins are worse than others and demand from us as members of the human race, never mind as part of the Christian fold, that we stop them. Bush's occupation of Iraq is one of them. GMA's occupation of Malacañang is another. It is one thing to rob this country of its taxes, it is another to rob it of its votes. It is one thing to rob the country of its riches, it is another to rob it of its will. It is one thing to rob this country of its body, it is another to rob it of its soul.

Lest we forget, GMA is not just accused of corruption, though heaven knows the fact alone that she brought back the very thing we ousted a popularly elected president for, which is *jueteng*, which brought her to Malacañang, is reason alone to evict her. But more than that, she is accused of corrupting the electoral process through the grace of Garci. To dismiss that because corruption is endemic to the presidency, s--t happens, Adam bit the apple (that guy was the original evader of responsibility, he blamed Eve for tempting him), what kind of message will you spread with that? You want to change people's mentalities and give them a real orientation in life?

Same question: How?

Light

COMMENTARY

Lourdes Didith V. Mendoza
Institute on Church and Social Issues

AFTER GOING through one political crisis after another, Filipinos may have felt that it's all right to let their guard down, for the light at the end of the tunnel seemed to be getting nearer. However, as another crisis grips us, the light at the end of the tunnel is starting to look like a train coming right at us. I'm actually hoping that it is; I'm naively wishing that those who really have good intentions for the country will smartly step out of its way, and the ones who don't we can push, not to their deaths, but to the open doors of the train so that they are brought somewhere far away. But I am sure they will stay on the railroad tracks, thinking that the light is an approaching diamond's brilliance.

This isn't hopelessness speaking, it's actually hope misplaced because of the darkness of confusion. But what can one do? We've invoked Christian and moral principles left and right to undo the mess that we have created. We've come up with all sorts of studies to improve the quality of our lives. We have set up various committees, organizations and associations to carry out concrete actions for the country. But it doesn't feel as if we have progressed as a nation. It just feels as if we have given more importance to the quantity of what we do or say, but not the quality.

I was fortunate to come across a group which values quality work and words. This group is not made up of learned men or women who shape our society, but maybe someday it will be. This group is made up of young men and women who moved and shook their little slum community.

The Park Seven Youth Club is a small group of young people who came up with a small project: building a fence that will separate their community from a smelly creek that runs the length of their neighborhood. They didn't get any support from the adults in the neighborhood at first. Nobody ever thought of putting up a fence that would eliminate the hazard of children falling into the creek, which had happened many times. Or if somebody did, nobody took the initiative to make the community safer by building a fence. Yes, lots of people in their area look after their own families, but nobody thought of going beyond their own families except the members of the Park Seven Youth Club. It was this group of young people who thought of making their community safer for all families living there.

The group was able to find the funds needed to buy the materials to build the fence. When the members brought all their purchases home, people started talking. The talk ranged from mere curiosity to allegations of pocketing funds.

The kids ignored all these and focused on the work they had to do. This doesn't mean that they were not hurt by the gossip that reached their ears; they were, but they knew they had to complete the fence before the rainy season started, and nobody was willing to do it, except them.

What hurt the kids most was a direct attack by one of their affluent neighbors. You see, the homes of these kids are wedged within one of the well-heeled subdivisions in Quezon City. One subdivision resident approached them one day, after seeing all the things they bought and hearing all the hammering going on as the kids built the fence. He sarcastically asked them, "If you can get money for a little fence, why can't you get money to buy your own house and lot?"

Despite the snide remarks, the members of the youth club continued with their project. In fact, they have already finished building the fence, with a bit of help from a few adults from the neighborhood who taught them how to weld metal, paint and mix cement. The focus and diligence of the group members caused dramatic changes in their community.

Initially, the residents were skeptical about the project, but later on, as they saw the fence slowly rising right in front of their eyes, members of the community rallied behind the group. Even the barangay captain and the councilors gave their support.

Now the community is a hub of activity. The kids' project has spurred the residents to action. Some residents, with the help of some councilors, have constructed a small park. The neighborhood association set up a small stage near the park and the fence. Now, in the middle of their slum community is an oasis of recreation and leisure. The construction of that oasis was inspired by the work of the Park Seven Youth Club.

After building the fence, the members of the club went beyond their primary goal of making the community safer. They have also deconstructed some of the obstacles that hindered the community's progress. They disproved the notion that the youth of their community are good for nothing and that only adults can get things done. They also disproved the notion that a slum community should always be despairingly bleak and dark.

People may think that the members of this youth club are such small players. After all, they are poor, young and mostly unlearned. But these marginalized characters have proven that though sidelined and silenced, the quality of their work shines so bright as to enlighten the residents of their slum community. This, the light of young and hardworking people, should be the kind of light on which we should place our hope.

Breast is still best

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE PHOTO of the President with a toddler in her arms, surrounded by other toddlers, their parents, health officials and legislators was a photo-op at its heartwarming best.

Cynics may sneer that this was but the latest in Malacañang's public relations drive, to paint a warmer, touchy-feely portrait of GMA in sharp contrast to her often dour, businesslike demeanor. Still, I must give it to her that she offered her person, always a guarantee of front-page news especially now that she's fighting for her political life, to the noble cause of breastfeeding, the occasion being the launching of August as National Breastfeeding Month.

Breastfeeding is one of those causes that everybody assumes everybody else supports. Who, after all, would be against it? Don't the ads for infant formula even air a caveat at the end that "breastfeeding is best for baby until two years"? And yet, in the Philippines, despite the progress the government made in the 1980s and early 1990s in promoting breastfeeding, support for breastfeeding has steadily declined.

Both WHO and Unicef recommend that a mother exclusively breastfeed her child for at least six months for "optimal infant growth, development and health." In 1998, the average duration of exclusive breastfeeding in the Philippines was only 1.4 months (not even the full duration of the legal maternity leave). But by 2003, even this short duration was cut to 24 days—less than a month!

Not only are fewer Filipino mothers choosing to breastfeed, those who do are breastfeeding for shorter periods.

* * *

WE must read these dismaying statistics against the background of the even more dismaying state of the health of Filipino children below 5.

An estimated 16,000 child deaths per year can be traced to formula-feeding, WHO says. Overall, 12 percent of Filipino infants below one year are considered underweight, with the percentage rising to 32 percent among those who survive their first year. None of these babies would have died, or started off their life handicapped by malnutrition, if only their mothers had been breastfeeding them. Breast milk, after all, is considered the "perfect food," safe, clean and imbued with protective antibodies and perfectly balanced nutrients that not even all the advanced lab work of infant formula manufacturers can improve on or even equal.

Swayed by TV ads that show children nourished on artificial formula and "follow-through" brands marching in child-size togas or showing off their giftedness? Just remember that long-term studies show conclusively that breastfed babies grow up to be, on average, more intelligent, more verbal, more emotionally secure and healthier overall than those fed on powdered milk. In fact, breastfed children are three to five IQ points smarter than those fed on formula. And since breastfeeding promotes bonding between mother and child, breastfed children also score better on the EQ scale.

* * *

IF the government would only resume its promotion programs for breastfeeding, the country even stands to meet its overall economic and development goals. Families would save P500 million on funeral expenses, for instance, while P1 billion could be saved from lost wages due to caring for sick infants. Families with sickly infants spend about P100 million in out-of-pocket expenditure for health care and basic drugs, and P50 million for hospitalization. The government itself spends P230 million on expenditures for subsidized hospitalization. In addition, Filipino families spend a total of P43 billion to buy infant formula, or an average of P4,000 a month per family.

Sen. Pia Cayetano, who has taken breastfeeding as one of the many health causes she champions as chair of the Senate committee on health, and whose office provided most of these statistics, says there's not even a need to enact a new law or measure to ensure that every Filipino baby enjoys the clear benefits of breastfeeding.

"EO 51 (The Milk Code) and RA 7600 (Rooming-in Act) pretty much contain all the provisions we need," she points out. The problem is that these "model laws" are barely enforced, with standards and monitoring allowed to steadily slip. Milk company representatives, it's been reported, are even now allowed to distribute "samples" of infant formula to mothers about to leave for home with their babies, even in government hospitals.

* * *

OF course, no amount of laws, and no amount of policing or enforcing them, could force mothers to breastfeed if they've somehow put it in their minds that bottle-feeding is the way to go.

There are many reasons propounded for this strange and unhealthy preference, one of which is the successful marketing image created that bottle-feeding with infant formula is "modern" and "scientific" while breastfeeding is "old-fashioned" and "unsanitary."

Another, I believe, is the eroticism attached to women's breasts, with modern society viewing them as primarily serving a sexual function rather than a nourishing one. Recently, I guested on a radio talk show on NU 107 (a rock station, which earned me instant "cool" points with my children) together with Daphne Osena Paez. In the course of the interview, Daphne mentioned that she had breastfed her and husband TV reporter Patrick Paez's daughter, which of course got us started off on the benefits of breastfeeding. One caller wanted to know if it was true that "breastfeeding makes your nipples darker." We said that we knew of no studies proving or disproving this, though I had to ask why this should matter. "Who would see your nipples, after all, except your partner and baby?"

When we begin to value pert breasts and girlish nipples over our children's health, then I guess we're really in trouble.

Bells are not just for ringing

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

LAST Sunday, in his homily during a Mass on the feast of St. Ignatius, Jesuit Provincial Superior Fr. Danny Huang mentioned that the saint would often sit on a small balcony in the Jesuit curia in Rome and gaze at the stars. This would move St. Ignatius to see and feel how small he was in the context of the universe, so he would fall on his knees and praise God.

That was centuries ago. But if the saint were alive today, would it be possible to see stars from the same balcony? In Metro Manila, the glare of the city lights have made star gazing very difficult. Often one needs to go out of town to see stars and constellations clearly set on a dark sky.

Most people in the city have other diversions, like malls, cable TV and the Internet, that make them forget simpler things like nature. City dwellers thus make do with small pocket Zen gardens or perhaps spend a quiet time having a massage in a day spa.

I am grateful for simple pleasures available in my corner of the universe that make life worth living like: birds chirping in the morning, squirrels running along electric wires, and even the sound of a church bell from the Anglican church that gives us the time of services on Sunday mornings. I've always wondered why the bells in the nearby Catholic church can't be heard as clearly. Bells are so antiquated that some parishes install loud speakers on rooftops and, instead of real bells, taped pealing is played. Who needs bells in the age of texting and e-mail?

In colonial times, church bells did not only provide time or warn of danger, they also signified the service being held in church as they tolled differently for a funeral or a marriage, for example. The area covered by a parish or Spanish control was measured by the sound of bells within earshot, thus literally *bajo de las campanas* (under the bells). Since most churches built these days have no provision for church bells, the ancient ritual of "baptizing" church bells is rarely performed.

According to Regalado Trota Jose, the authority on colonial churches and ecclesiastical art in the Philippines, the bell is not only blessed but washed inside out with holy water and salt. Then, seven crosses are drawn on the outside of the bell with the Oil of Cathechumens (used for baptism) and four crosses are drawn on the inside of the bell with Holy Chrism (the oil used for anointing the sick and dying). After being so anointed, a name of a saint is given to the bell, and incense is made to smoke it into holiness. After a reading from the Scriptures and closing prayers, the presiding priest makes the Sign of the Cross over it and the deed is done.

Bells were believed to purify the air of evil and to be unbearable to evil creatures and hopefully evil people, as well. Bells were rung during storms in the belief that holy sound could quell any tempest.

Years ago, following Ricky Jose's example, I would visit colonial churches in and around Manila, taking notes and pictures. Once I climbed up one of the spires of San Sebastian Church in Manila to look at its bells. Perhaps I was so occupied with keeping my balance that I didn't notice that one of the bells was inscribed "Circuncision del Señor" and was cast in 1861.

This name may be too much for the MTRCB or those raised on the post-Vatican II Church calendar. But Jan. 1 used to be the Feast of the Circumcision, although this was changed in 1969 to the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God.

The earlier feast explains why one of the little old women who came to the wake of my grandfather was named Circumcision Garcia; her parents obviously took her name straight from the Church calendar. To add insult to injury, her nickname was "Tuli" and in later life she was known as "Apung Tuli." For those who think I'm inventing a new urban legend, I will try and find the Mass card she left at my grandfather's wake in San Fernando, Pampanga.

There is a lot of history we can learn from church bells, and researchers will forever be grateful to Ricky Jose for compiling all the data on bells he could get his hands on. A small picture book on bells in the Philippines will be quite interesting. The only problem is that most of the bells listed by Jose were cast in the 19th century. Over the centuries of war and want, church bells were often melted down and the metal made into more utilitarian objects like plows and cannons.

Data from churches in many provinces from north to south have been compiled and classified alphabetically and thematically. The results were published in "The Philippine Quarterly of Culture and Society" subsidized by the University of San Carlos Cebu.

Of course, many bells are named in honor of the Virgin Mary, who is known under so many titles, including N[uestra] S[eñora] de Guia, Antipolo, Guadalupe, Loreto, etc. San Jose was the most popular, at least compared to the bells named after the Son of God. And there were some that were named after really obscure saints like Caralampio in Bacoor, Cavite, that was commissioned by none other than Fr. Mariano Gomes (one of the three martyr priests known as Gomburza).

One will not find a listing of bells and names interesting, but seen in the context of art history, church architecture, legend and iconography, they generate many interesting stories and connections indeed.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Kindness of history?

WAS Marcos the best president we've ever had in recent history?

Seems so, based on Pulse Asia's July 2005 Ulat ng Bayan national survey which asked people to rate recent presidents. Marcos romped away with a median rating of 7, compared to 6 for Corazon Aquino, Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took a 4.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

I wish I had more information on the research instruments themselves, such as the questions used, and how people actually rated the presidents on each of several criteria. Nevertheless, the findings were enough to get me alarmed.

Marcos era

Time, we are told, is like a medicinal balm that heals wounds. Put another way, history tends to be kind. And yes, it's been almost 20 years since Marcos was stormed out of Malacañang. But that still seems a terribly short time to forget the thousands of political prisoners, the tortured, the disappeared and the way the nation's coffers were plundered.

Maybe the mass media's focus has been banal—Imelda's shoes and parties for example—so that now we tend to be more benign as we look back. Maybe, too, we're in collective denial about the Marcos era.

We tend to refer to that era simply as "martial law," yet our problems started when Marcos first came to office in 1965. Conrado de Quiros' "Dead Aim" is the best chronicle yet of the Marcos era, pointing out how Marcos was driven by ambition, and a cunning ability to read the public's pulse ... even without public opinion surveys.

He capitalized on our aspirations and our fears to keep himself in power, using democratic institutions and constitutional processes to his advantage. We forget that only nine years of the Marcos era (1972 to 1981) was technically under martial law. Much of his rule was "constitutional": from 1965 to 1972 as a duly-elected president, and from 1981 to 1986 after he "lifted" martial law. Ever conscious of how history might judge him, he was always trying to legitimize himself with constitutional conventions, elections, the imposition and lifting of martial law.

We have to remember all his machinations, including the invoking of "due process," if we are to understand the dangers of complacency that come about today, where democratic institutions, however fragile, still prevail.

Totalitarian temptation

Marcos won Filipinos' hearts with promises of firm leadership. People were willing to give him a chance when he declared martial law and, although that experiment was disastrous, we tend to blame the failure on Imelda, or his cronies.

These days, we are again being seduced by offers of strong leadership. Ms Arroyo tried with her "strong republic" rhetoric but the rhetoric lingers only on "Matatag na Republika" emblazoned on our license plates (a parody, when you think of how our motor vehicles so represent the disdain Filipinos have for the laws and law enforcers of that "strong republic").

The Pulse Asia surveys show Ping Lacson leading in the National Capital Region among those who Filipinos think should replace Ms Arroyo. Nationwide, he was third, after Noli de Castro and Erap Estrada. We know Lacson's appeal: If he ever became president, the Department of Public Works and Highways would spend most of its time building more jails, than schools, hospitals or highways.

But therein lies the paradox of totalitarianism, one that Marcos was well aware of: precisely because people yearn so much for democracy, we often end up believing democracy is best served through authoritarianism. As democratic institutions falter, as noise levels of discontent and dissent rise, we complain about "democrazy" and yearn for the fictitious peace and order that comes with kings (or in our case, datus and sultans) and dictators.

Bodies politic

As the country's body politic is slowly being torn apart, it is not surprising that Ms Arroyo's advisers have seen another political opportunity, this time in a literal body, to "heal" the nation. Perhaps reading the Pulse Asia findings and the high ratings for Marcos, Ms Arroyo is now courting the Marcos family (currently identified with the anti-Arroyo forces) by offering to have Ferdinand Marcos' remains transferred to the Libingan ng mga Bayani. It's a battle the Marcos family has been fighting for years, with Joseph Estrada almost acceding, except that there was a massive public outcry protesting the proposal.

This time around, there's not just silence from protesters but more voices saying let bygones be bygones. Yet, I would argue this is an even worse time to have him buried there. If we feel uneasy about the Marcoses and Marcos cronies surrounding Susan Roces and the opposition, we should be even more concerned about the unholiest of unholiest alliances that could be built up via Ms Arroyo and the Marcoses as they feed into each other's delusions of grandeur.

In recent weeks, we've seen how totally clueless Ms Arroyo is when it comes to public relations. Her speeches, her press conferences have to be scripted and pre-taped and despite all precautions, she still falls flat. Her advisers know this all too well and how a grand Marcos burial would serve her well. But if that ever comes about, the Libingan ceremonies would be doubly blasphemous, not just a canonization of Marcos as national hero but also his ghost resurrected to anoint Ms Arroyo as his spiritual successor.

In all these events, I wonder if we are seeing the kindness of history, or the kindness of historians. Are our historians perhaps remiss in chronicling the past? Should it be surprising that we then suffer national amnesia, and are therefore unable to see through the replays of history, the deceptions of politicians, the quagmire of authoritarianism?

Historical memories aren't built by historians alone. I've mentioned "Dead Aim" as an important source book for building our historical memory. I'd recommend, too, a conference report published by the Ateneo de Manila, "Memory, Truth-telling and the Pursuit of Justice," which brought together scholars from different disciplines to look back at the dictatorship.

But books are books, and in a country that reads so little, the burden of memory-keeping and truth-telling falls the on mass media, and on families and schools. Let us not forget most of our students today were born after the Marcos era.

De Quiros' book is subtitled "How Marcos Ambushed Philippine Democracy." With little or no historical memory, my nightmare is that perhaps we are walking right into another ambush. Mind you, I have a strong suspicion that Ms Arroyo isn't doing the ambushing, or even directing it. I'm afraid that, overwhelmed by desperate pride, she is walking right into it as well, taking the nation with her. That will be another story for historians to tell, and to judge.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The Nat[illegible]al Association of Philippine Newspapers

Charter change useless if elite monopoly remains

FORMER PRESIDENT Ramos has proposed a shift to a parliamentary system as a way out of the present political crisis. Will a parliamentary system substantially contribute in resolving our myriad of social, economic and political problems? Would it mean a more responsive national legislature?

A shift to a parliamentary system would, I believe, probably boost the chance of the former president to become the prime minister if his party becomes the majority party. But changing the existing presidential form of government, without altering the elite's ownership and control of the country's economic and natural resources and their domination of the political positions, would not mean much to ordinary Filipinos.

There would be a change in title, but we would still have a majority of legislators who would be insensitive and unresponsive to the social and economic needs of the people, who would abuse their offices for personal gain, who would cheat and terrorize the voters just to get elected.

What the people must work for in the long run is to assert their rights as human beings, make the government officials accountable, end the monopoly of a few families over the country's natural and economic resources, no matter what form of government we will have.

—RAFFY REY HIPOLITO,
policy advocacy officer,
FoodFirst Information & Action Network (FIAN) Philippines,
9-B Matulungin St.,
Barangay Central, Quezon City,
fianphils@pacific.net.ph

Reforms require credibility of implementors

THE CURRENT political crisis is yet another strong reminder of the need for strengthening the institutions of this country. Of primary importance here is, at the very least, creating an impression that this is a country where laws are superior to the people who are supposed to implement them; this is necessary for the successful formulation and implementation of urgent reforms.

The big question is: In strengthening the institutions of this country, where do we begin? Our answer: we begin with the resignation of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. She has lost her moral ascendancy to govern. It disappeared with the admission that she talked with a Comelec official during the processing of election results. But even if we assume that the conversation did not in fact involve any impropriety, still it created the perception that irregularities occurred.

Are we asking too much of Ms Arroyo? After all, the allegations of electoral fraud have yet to be proven in the courts. We do not believe so.

First, assuming her administration sincerely wants genuine reforms, she should remember such undertaking requires credibility. How can reforms be effected if the person tasked with implementing them is herself lacking in credibility? And can they be implemented in an atmosphere of serious political uncertainty?

Second, her continued stay in office distracts other government institutions from focusing on their primary functions. A good example here is the House of Representatives. Instead of formulating laws, our representatives are immersed in long debates over the Gloriagate recordings.

And what will happen if the impeachment complaint surprisingly leads to an impeachment trial? Ms Arroyo, as an economist, knows that means spending precious time that could have been used for something else.

Finally, an extra-constitutional way of changing leadership is being suggested by not a few sectors. Is this something that we really want? The chances of avoiding the above can be enhanced with the simple stroke of a pen—"I resign!"

We would like to conclude this by addressing two propositions brought forth by this turmoil.

The first assumes that no one else of the more than 80 million Filipinos (some of whom are successfully managing foreign corporations) other than Ms Arroyo, is capable of managing this country. This is a great insult to the Filipino people. In the first place, has Ms Arroyo really done a good job managing the country?

The other proposition is: The economy will collapse with the fall of the Arroyo administration. Sure, a new president exposes us to such risks, but are we not facing such risks already?

Economics is not the immediate problem. It's politics, stupid! (With apologies to former US President Bill Clinton.)

—UPE RODRIGUEZ, AC CUEVAS and CONCERNED FACULTY MEMBERS,
Department of Economics,
UP Los Baños, Laguna

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Messages, honor and pride for all

CONGRATULATIONS to engineer Ruben Quintal Jr.!

I truly appreciate the feature story done by Juan V. Sarmiento Jr. on Quintal, the 22-year-old graduate of the Catanduanes State Colleges (CSC), who topped the civil engineering board exams conducted in May 2005. (PDI, 7/21/05)

"From shanty to skyscraper" tells us how Quintal rose from his humble beginnings to arrive at where he is now. Quintal's life also proves to us that we have a good and great God who rewards all our sacrifices.

Quintal's success also brought honor and pride to many: the members of his family and loved ones, his benefactor, lawyer Eleonor Tabuzo, his *kababayan*, friends, his alma mater, the faculty and staff members of CSC; and above all, our Lord God Almighty whom he earnestly prayed to and trusted for his ultimate success.

As Jeremiah 17:7-8 says: "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him. He will be like a tree planted by the water, that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

To God be the glory!

—LYDIA V. AGBULOS,
Tangara Subdivision,
Purok 1, Lanao,
Kidapawan City

Not presidential consultants

PLEASE allow me to point out inaccuracies in the INQUIRER banner story headlined "2 more GMA execs quit." (PDI, 7/19/05)

1. Our records show that President Macapagal-Arroyo never appointed Corazon Guidote as "presidential consultant on investor relations." All presidential advisers and consultants are appointed by the President, who signs the appointment paper herself. No other official can confer on anybody the title of "presidential consultant."

Guidote, however, had a contract of services with the Office of the Communications Director for a fee of P25,000 per month. The services Guidote provided were of such nature as research and writing, which the communications director needed. The contract also stipulated that the payment of the compensation shall not create "an employee-employer relationship." The contract started April 1 and ended June 30, 2005, or a week before July 8, the day she claimed she resigned.

2. Vicky Garchitorena was appointed April 2002—according to the appointment paper itself—as "senior consultant for poverty alleviation and good governance in an honorary capacity without compensation."

The appointments of all presidential advisers and consultants, however, were terminated when the President started her new term in June 2004, unless they were reappointed. Our records show that no new reappointment as consultant was made in the case of Garchitorena. There are only two presidential consultants now in our records. Neither Garchitorena nor Guidote is any of those consultants.

It does not seem coincidental that two days after ex-Secretary Teresita Quintos-Deles claimed that other officials would resign, the INQUIRER has this banner headline "2 more GMA execs quit."

But considering the facts, how could the two ladies quit posts which they did not hold?

—RIGOBERTO D. TIGLAO,
head, Presidential Management Staff, Office of the President,
Malacañang, Manila

Paid ad not YMPN's

WE are distressed by the publication of a one-page advertisement on July 23 (a public statement from a certain "core group" of Young Moro Professionals). We disclaim any links to and affiliation with that anonymous group. Neither did we give our consent to the issuance of that statement. We tried to contact this group through their e-mail address armmpeace@yahoo.com, but our messages bounced back.

The Young Moro Professionals, which is now known as the Young Moro Professionals Network (YMPN), organized itself in 2001 as a principled group of young Muslims whose central values are built on idealism, integrity, brotherhood and professionalism. According to our constitution and by-laws, we are an organization that operates by consensus, especially when it comes to issuing public statements that deal with the critical issues of the day.

We issue this statement to clear our organization from doubts that may have been created by the publication of such an expensive ad. We vehemently deny that we issued any statement to that effect in the name of the Young Moro Professionals.

—BAIBONN SANGID,
chair, Young Moro Professionals Network,
(www.bangsamoro.com),
c/o bdsangid@yahoo.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Laura Jean
club
Saturday_8pm
feel_the_vibe
ABC
ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN						Teledyaryo	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)					Teledyaryo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)					
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Qpids	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Kampanerang Kuba	Green Rose	Oh! Feel Young	Yes Yes Show			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		Global Hoops				Sentro	Global Hoops					Big News	Dokyu		ESPN Golf: Kraft Nabisco Championship	
GMA 7	Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Friends	Shaman King	Full Metal Alchemist	Full House		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	Attic Cat	Nuts Entertainment			Saksi
RPN 9		Metro TV Shopping	Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Iron Chef		Trading Spouses		Extreme Make-Over		Newswatch Now	Keep up the Good Work w/ Joey Lina		Pangako Mo
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		MTV		Sing For Peace			BYK 101	Up Close And Personal	IBC News Tonite	Breaking Barriers	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop		New Life TV Shop				EZ Shop				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Superfine Tv Shopping		Sheperds Voice	
Studio 23						Super Gals		Batman Beyond	Beyblade	Wazzup Wazzup	Mutant X	C.S.I. (8:15PM)		Las Vegas		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me
MTV Philippines		Making The Video: Jessica These Boot	MTV Get Spotted			Hangin Out at MTV		TRL		MTV Play					MTV Lokal Parokya ni Edgar			MTV Play	
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Take 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Firsts	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Live!		My MYX	OPM MYX	MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	Main Sail	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN				2005 WNBA Basketball				Pool/Snooker Rack 'Em Up 4		X Games Invitational	X Games Invitational	Sportscenter Asia	World Snooker Tour Embassy World Champs						Sportscenter Asia
Solar Sports														WTA '05 Telecom Italia Masters, Rome Finals					
Sports Plus				Tour De France Highlights		FMX			Pennsylvania 500 Highlights		Nopi Tunerversion	World's Greatest Auto Shows							
Cinemax				The Gorgon			100 Mile Rule			Cape Fear				U Turn				Darkman II The Return Of Durant	
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Agency II		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	The Nanny	Sue Thomas: F.B Eye		Agency II		Valentin			Strong Medicine (10:35PM)		Sue Thomas: F.B Eye
Disney Channel	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	So Little Time	Buzz Lightyear Of Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Land Before Time IV: Journey Through The Mists			So Little Time	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Land Before Time V: The Mysterious Island	
Discovery Channel		Science Mysteries		Science Frontiers		Destination Mars								Mythbusters					
National Geographic		Showreel Asia		Going To Extremes		The Sea Hunters		Wildlife Detectives	Hayden Turner's Wildlife Challenge			About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Showreel Asia		Going To Extremes	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	Mucha Lucha!	Megas XLR	SD Gundam Force	Medabots	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Johnny Bravo	Time Squad	Thundercats	Mucha Lucha!	Megas XLR
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	Cow At The Moo-vies	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Yakkity Yak	Chalkzone	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Rugrats
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Wolfgang Puck's	E! Entertainment Special The Next Wave		Life Is Great With Brooke Burke	Life & Style		Clean House		Breathing Room	Genuine Article
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	One Tree Hill		Rockstar		J.A.G		Friends	One Tree Hill
AXN		The Amazing Race 6		Next Action Star		Ripley's Believe It or Not		PSI Factor (Season III)		Beastmaster		Ultimate Guinness World Records	Ultimate Guinness World Records	Maximum Exposure (Season I)		CSI: Miami (Season 3)		CSI: NY (Season I)	
JackTV	Banzai	X-Men	Justice League	Wwe Raw				Filter	Just For Laughs	Mad TV		Dr. Katz	Premium Blend	Shorties Watching Shorties	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Mad TV		The Sib Show	Street Smarts
ETC		Committed	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Complete Savages	What I Like About You	Veronica Mars		Last Comic Standing		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO	Sex & The Single Mom (2:25 PM)			Chasing Liberty				Little Nikita (5:50 PM)			Beverly Hills Ninja			Dreamcatcher				The Juror (11:10PM)	
Star Movies			The Box (3:45 PM)				Hackers (5:25 PM)			The Clown Payday				True Lies					Total Recall (11:20PM)
EWTN	The Sacraments Through The Ages	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Refurbishing The Soul	Faith Factor C	Story Keepers	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	EWTN Catholic Classic	The Church And The Poor-Building Bridges	Mother Angelica Live Classics		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (8:15 PM)	One In Their Hearts: Holiness Of Priesthood	Deep Conversation: Deep Prayer	The Virtues: Seven Habits Of Champions	The Abundant Life	

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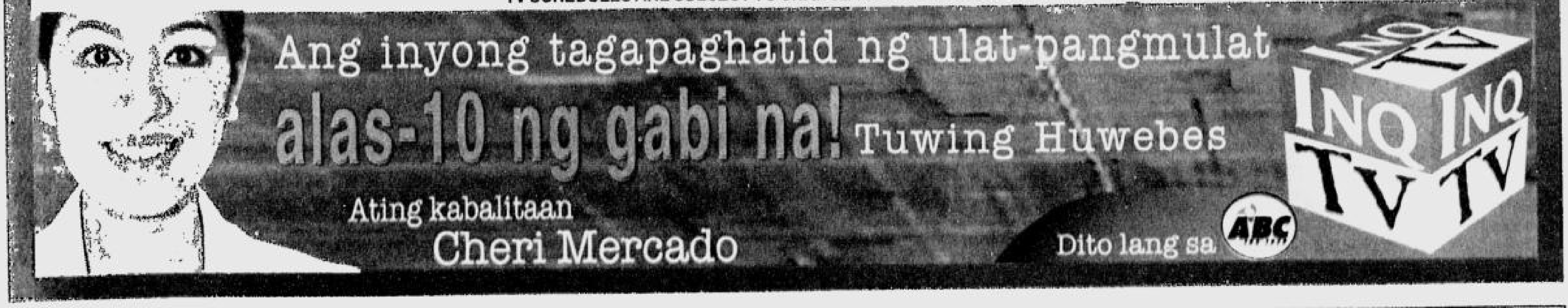
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Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Rolando B. Fernandez**

Ifugao farmers return to traditional farming

By Desiree Caluza
Kiangan, Ifugao

IT WAS in the 1960s when villagers of Nagacadan in Kiangan, Ifugao, last heard the *kurimbatung* or the rhythmic beating of the *dipdipu*, a percussion instrument made from hollowed wood and deer skin.

In June, the people again heard the *kurimbatung* when they celebrated the bountiful harvest through the *ani*, one of the 12 rice rites in the agricultural calendar of Ifugao.

The advent of Western religion, modern science, politics and economics in Nagacadan (pop: 602) did not stop Ampaguy Dulawan, an 83-year-old *mumbaki* (native priest), and the villagers from thanking their gods and spirits through the harvest ritual.

One of the elders, Manuel Dulawan, 70, was pleased that the remaining *mumbaki* in their community were around to preside over the thanksgiving ritual for their indigenous rice *ipugo*, which the people believe comes from the sky world.

The women reap the *ipugo* using their antique *gamulang*, a thick blade. The *ipugo*, whose ritual term is "*butnol an-inayuhipan*," is a rice variety characterized by round grains.

AMPAGUY Dulawan, an 83-year-old "mumbaki" (native priest), leads the "ani" ritual, where the Kiangan community offered thanks to the gods for a good harvest. EV ESPIRITU

Sky world

Dulawan said the myth of the *ipugo* or how the *butnol* was taken from the sky world and propagated in Ifugao's rice terraces, was recited during the *ani*.

Bundles of the rice, a chicken, a pig, betel nuts and rice wine were offered to the spirits.

Dulawan said it took a long time before Nagacadan again performed the ritual. Christianity, which has been practiced by many residents, did not encourage the holding of a pagan rite, he said.

Another problem, he said, was the shortage of *mumbaki* in the village.

The elder said that growing native rice in the terraces was also affected by the intrusion of modern practices.

"Not too long ago, the Department of Agriculture encouraged the use of pesticides in our farms, but our rice fields were affected. Because of this, we lost our native fish and snails," Dulawan said.

"The chemicals and pesticides destroyed our farms. Aside from their being too expensive, they brought foreign elements that harmed our rice fields, such as the golden *kuhol* (snails) and giant earthworms or *kolang*," said Eddie Balog, the barangay chair.

With the entry of commercial fertilizers and other rice varieties from the lowlands, Nagacadan farmers experienced infestation in their rice fields and realized that it was time to return to traditional farming.

Pest attacks

"We have had enough because of the series of pest attacks in our farms. To stop this, we have agreed to return to the traditional practice of farming, which does not use chemicals but uses organic materials available in our environment," Balog said.

Dulawan said the elders encouraged residents to go back to traditional farming.

"Outside of religious aspects, we attribute our good harvest to the kind of soil, the way we prepare our seed beds before planting and maintenance of the irrigation system and canals. We clean the rice fields and we use compost fertilizers made of grass and decayed rice stalks," he said.

The farmers' adherence to traditional farming has inspired groups pushing for the preservation of the famed rice terraces and has made the village a model for a sustainable rice production or the system of rice intensification (SRI).

When the SRI was introduced to Nagacadan in November last year, the people allotted 10 plots for the project.

Indigenous farming

Trygve Bolante, director for movement building and field operation of Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM), said the SRI combined different rice farming practices to boost production.

Bolante said the system, which is being pushed by his group, was developed by Fr. Henri de Laulanie in Madagascar.

"[The] SRI promotes natural and indigenous practices. It is a farmer-led practice. With [the] SRI, we are not only looking for higher yields, because that can be accomplished through chemical farming. We are also after the nutrition of soil. If we are not going to take care of the soil, we will only have a low harvest," he said.

A PRRM research said results of field practices in the Philippines and other countries showed that the SRI doubled the yield and lowered the production cost of farming. The system uses organic fertilizers and 10 kg of seeds per hectare, and saves up to 50 percent of irrigation water.

Subsistence rice

Bolante said that if the SRI worked in Barangay Nagacadan, they would recommend it to other Ifugao towns to preserve the rice terraces.

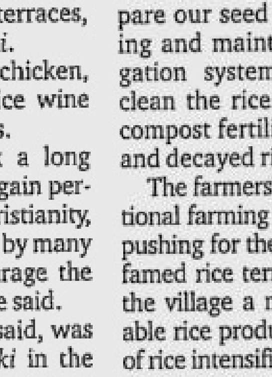
Shubert Ciencia, spokesperson for the Rice Watch and Action Network, said the SRI has a big potential to increase yield in Kiangan.

"In Kiangan, rice is for subsistence purposes. Farmers do not profit from it as harvest is for domestic consumption. What we want is to develop a model that can maintain the rice terraces and its productivity can ensure food security. If there is surplus, then they can sell that," Ciencia said.

IN THE KNOW

IFUGAO (pop: 161,623 as of May 2003), located more than 300 km north of Metro Manila, is one of the country's poorest provinces.

Its famous rice terraces were inscribed in Unesco's World Heritage List in 1995. Rising 1,500 meters above sea level, the terraces, dubbed the "Eighth Wonder of the World," were carved from the harsh terrain of Ifugao by the hardy native farmers more than 2,000 years ago.



RICE plays a major role in the life of the Ifugao people. EV ESPIRITU

The Central Cordillera Agricultural Program said the rice terraces' land-use system (in high elevations) no longer satisfies the rice needs of the populace because almost 80 percent of the rice growers cannot produce enough to meet household consumption needs.

On the average, rice produced by farm-operating households in the high-altitude areas is sufficient to meet their needs for only 5.1 months, Cecap said.

The book "Highland Rice Production in the Philippine Cordillera," pegs production in Ifugao of indigenous rice at 29,949 metric tons from 14,079 hectares of land. Palay production was 45,284 MT in 2003.

The people engage in agriculture, hunting and forestry. They raise rice, root crops, vegetables, coffee and cotton in the rice terraces or in kaingin. Woodcarving and the making of traditional handicraft, such as woven cloth and baskets, are important industries.

Average annual family income is P85,245 (as of 2000).

Sources: http://home.online.no/~erfalch/ifugaoa.htm, The Philippine Countryside In Figures, NSCB, DOT and INQUIRER reports

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Palawan to sue gov't on gas shares

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The provincial government of Palawan will file another civil case against the national government after the latter's refusal to pay the local government unit P1.2 billion to fund specific projects.

Gov. Joel Reyes yesterday asked an authority from the provincial council to allow him to file a civil case of specific performance against key Cabinet officials.

Reyes earlier said he was running out of patience over the national government's inaction in the delivery of the share of Palawan from the revenue in the Camago-Malampaya Natural Gas-to-Power Project during his State of the Province Address two weeks ago.

The new civil suit is Palawan's answer in the light of the delay in the release of Palawan's share from the Malampaya proceeds provided for by the interim agreement between the national government and the Palawan provincial government signed on Feb. 9.

The agreement states that pending a court decision on whether the Camago-Malampaya Natural Gas Project was part of the territorial jurisdiction of Palawan, the national government will give Palawan about P1.2 billion to fund specific projects such as road networks, airports and livelihood programs.

The Palawan government was mandated to submit the list of projects, which it did immediately in March 2005 during the time of then Energy Secretary Vince Perez.

"But until now, no single centavo has been released," Reyes said.

The agreement was signed by Reyes, on behalf of Palawan, and Perez, then Budget Secretary Mario Relampagos, and former Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong, on behalf of the national government.

Ms Arroyo was not a signatory but she sent a letter authorizing the then Cabinet officials to sign the agreement.

Reyes said that since the signing of the agreement, the provincial government immediately complied with the submission of the list of priority development projects that would be funded out of the 50 percent from the 40 percent local government gas share to the Department of Energy for its review and endorsement to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

The province, Reyes said, has exerted efforts to coordinate with former Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, who committed to release the first tranche of the funds.

In 2002, the provincial government filed a petition for declaratory relief, seeking intervention from the court to decide on the Malampaya ownership because Ms Arroyo initially said Malampaya was outside the territorial jurisdiction of Palawan. *Jofelle P. Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Coalition of Leyte NGOs backs Cha-cha, federalism

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—A coalition of moderate nongovernment and people's organizations in Leyte has declared support for Charter change and is set to conduct a massive information campaign favoring a federal form of government.

The Leyte Coalition of Development of Non-Government and People's Organizations (Leyte-Code), the umbrella group of 12 NGOs and POs in Leyte, declared its support to President Macapagal-Arroyo's call to amend the 1986 Constitution during its meeting with sectoral groups here on Saturday.

Pauline Nayra, Leyte-Code chair, said they intend to go all out in their campaign by going down to the barangay level to make people aware of the proposed Charter change and why it is needed at this time.

Nayra, who is also the vice chair of the Eastern Visayas Regional Development Council (RDC-8), said they will bring the information drive to the barangays starting this weekend because they want "to multiply the people who can help us inform our people about Charter change."

"If we know what we are discussing, we could make our decision," said Nayra.

Nayra said that their group supports Charter change because they believe that the present Constitution is no longer responsive to the needs of times.

She said Leyte-Code endorses a shift to a federal-type of government from the presidential form as its member-organizations believe it is more suited to the country.

"Our being an archipelago means we have different cultures and different needs," she said, adding that not all laws and policies implemented by the central government would apply to regions like Eastern Visayas.

She said the current system makes provinces dependent on the national government and this can be corrected by adopting a federal form of government.

Nayra also dismissed the argument raised by those who oppose Charter change that it is the leaders and not the system that is wrong.

CAGES
Bamboo huts serve as guardhouses for fishponds that occupy hectares of the Laguna Lake in Cardona, Rizal.
ERNIE SARMIENTO

Palawan residents revive opposition to province's transfer to W. Visayas

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Palawan residents have revived anew their objection to the transfer of the province from Region IV-B to Region 6 or Western Visayas.

Provincial board member Gil Acosta, in his privilege speech, said the transfer was a Malacañang move and the highest policy-making body of Palawan was not even consulted.

It was just mentioned in jest by President Macapagal-Arroyo to Gov. Joel Reyes when she visited Palawan in April and the President immediately issued Executive Order No. 439 transferring Palawan and Puerto Princesa City to Region 6.

Other member provinces and cities of the Mindoro-Marinduque-Romblon-Palawan (Mimaropa) region were not transferred to the Western Visayas region.

Acosta said Palawan could do what Zamboanga had done when former President Corazon Aquino issued an executive order "transferring the regional offices of the national government, from Zamboanga City to Pagadian City—all of Mindanao."

"The Zamboangueños did not agree," Acosta said.

It appealed its case and Ms Aquino revoked the transfer through Memorandum Circular 75.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Palawan spokesperson Rey Melchor said their office already manifested strong objections to the transfer.

He said they usually do their transactions in the central office in Manila whenever there are official businesses in the regional office, which is the national capital. Other than this, he said, they lost important documents when Palawan was transferred to Region IV-B from Region IV.

They said they didn't want it to happen again.

Even the Philippine National Police provincial office, through its spokesperson, said it was hard for the police force to transact business in Iloilo, the regional center of Western Visayas, because there is only one small ship that goes to Iloilo once a week.

A commercial airline flies from Puerto to Iloilo and Cebu four times a week but not everyone could afford the rising cost of airfare.

Costly

Some of the residents also said that whenever government or private employees transact official business in Manila, they also visit their children studying there. They said it was like hitting two birds with one stone.

Geologist Dr. Antonio Socrates said the transfer could affect Palawan's share and claim over the Camago-Malampaya Natural Gas Project.

The province is supposed to get at least $1.2 million over 20 years as mandated in the Local Government Code but Ms Arroyo had declared that Malampaya was outside Palawan's territory. A petition for declaratory relief asking the court to resolve the issue was filed.

Socrates said there seemed to be a conspiracy being cooked by the Arroyo administration because administration Rep. Danilo Suarez of Quezon filed a bill to get the Palawan share by securitizing it in order to buy equipment for the military.

Antique Gov. Salvacion Perez, Western Visayas Regional Development Council chair, said in a radio interview, that if Palawan became part of Western Visayas "we would benefit from your natural gas."

But Perez was not aware that Ms Arroyo already pronounced that Malampaya was not in Palawan.

"Did the President really say that? I doubt it," she said.

She added that "we will help Palawan get its share because we are entitled to it." *Jofelle P. Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Vizcaya gov says let people decide on mining

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Gov. Luisa Cuaresma on Monday dismissed reports that she was pushing for the approval of a proposed gold-copper mining project in Kasibu town.

Cuaresma said she was leaving the decision to the affected communities.

She also denied reports that her recent trip to Barangay Didipio, along with Vice Gov. Jose Gambito and three provincial board members, was an indication that she was campaigning for the approval of the project being pushed by Climax Arimco Mining Corp. (CAMC), an Australian company.

"It's not because I visited Didipio that I am already for the project. To me, what the people there want should be respected," she said.

Earlier, anti-mining groups here expressed alarm over the officials' July 7 trip to the proposed mining site, which was supposedly meant to show Didipio villagers that the provincial government had approved the project.

The officials were accompanied by Jose Leviste Jr., CAMC-Philippines board chair, and Mines and Geosciences Bureau Director Jerrysal Mangaoang.

Visit purpose

"The provincial government would not dictate on the people whether or not they would accept the project. My purpose of visit there was to see for myself what actually was the situation and that was it," she said.

Arnel Arrojo, CAMC project manager, said the provincial officials' visit there was for "validation" purposes only.

CAMC is wooing the local council of Kasibu and the provincial board as it needs at least two endorsements from either the barangay, municipal and provincial legislative councils.

The Didipio village council earlier rejected the project while the town council is set to vote on it on Aug. 8.

The $102-million venture aims to process in 14 years about four million ounces of gold and 1.5 billion ounces of copper deposits underneath Dinkidi hill in Sitio Bacbacan, about 70 km from here.

Cuaresma's statement came on the heels of a position issued by 25 of the 30 villages in Kasibu who rejected the planned operations of foreign companies that are pushing large-scale mining projects there.

Threats

"The people of Kasibu are threatened by the Didipio gold-copper mining project, specifically through physical and economic displacement and dislocation, environmental degradation, threats of pollution and related diseases and loss of security in their economic, social and cultural future," the village chairs' resolution said.

They asked the town council to remain firm in its 2002 resolution that denied endorsement of the CAMC project, and to stop mining companies from conducting information campaigns in their villages without permission from officials.

Kasibu Mayor Romeo Tayaban and Vice Mayor Romeo Aliguyon have also opposed the planned large-scale mining projects in the town. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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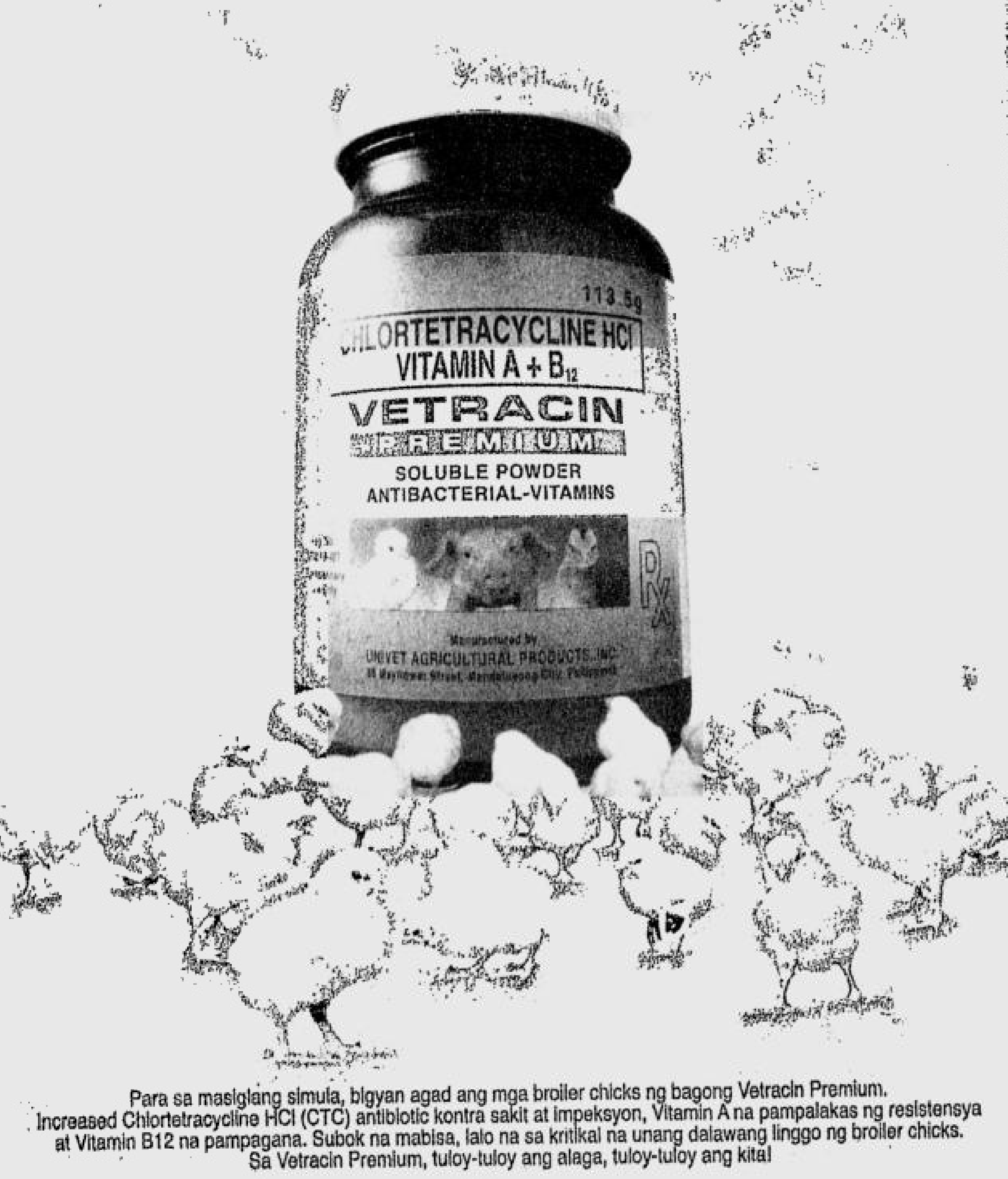

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UNIVET

Dengue alarm raised in Cebu

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Cebu City and health officials are alarmed by the rise in the number of dengue cases here, which reached over 500 with 16 deaths in the city's 25 barangays since the start of the year.

The Cebu City council wants to place these villages under a state of calamity to enable the city government to tap calamity funds.

The calamity funds will also be used to fund the clean up drive in the barangays and purchase medicines and other supplies at the city-run Cebu City Medical Center, said Councilor Gerardo Carillo, chair of the committee on social services.

Carillo said he and Councilor Christopher Alix, committee chair on health, would sponsor the resolution placing these barangays under a state of calamity. It would be passed during the council session on Wednesday.

Cebu City Health Officer Fe Cabugao said the number of dengue cases in Cebu City was very alarming although there was no outbreak yet.

Dr. Daisy Villa, city dengue program coordinator, said as of Friday, the total number of dengue cases in the city reached 546 with 16 deaths.

The figure went up by 61 percent compared to the 339 cases reported during the same period last year, she said.

Based on the list, dengue cases were reported in 18 urban and seven rural barangays in Cebu City. Most of the 19 fatalities were between 9 years old and below. The youngest was an 8-month-old baby.

Cabugao said he planned to meet with the officials of the barangays to help them in their campaign against the spread of dengue.

She also asked the public to also participate in the campaign dubbed as "the four O' clock habit" that enjoins households to clean their surroundings to eliminate the breeding grounds of dengue-causing mosquitoes.

Cabugao also launched the dengue brigade program in different barangays in the city to increase awareness.

"I urge the people to clean anything that holds water to prevent this kind of mosquito from laying eggs. As much as we can, we will destroy all probable breeding places," Cabugao said.

Dengue fever is caused by a virus carried by day-biting mosquitoes aedes aegypti and aedes albopictus, which breed in stagnant water.

Dengue fever has flu-like symptoms but could be fatal in its advanced stages.

ROUNDUP

Undocumented Iranian arrested

LUCENA CITY—A suspected undocumented Iranian national was arrested Friday by members of the Bureau of Immigration. Esmael Ghodsi was arrested at the ground floor of a mall here where he worked as a sales clerk. BI agents Ansari Macaayan and Arif Dirugun, leaders of the arresting team, said the Iranian was not able to produce documents to prove his legal stay in the country. It was also learned that Ghodsi had been staying in this city for the past two years to elude arrest by BI authorities. The suspect was brought to Bicutan Detention Center in Taguig, Metro Manila. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Traders held for selling smut

REAL, Quezon—Police arrested two businesswomen here on Thursday while selling lewd magazines and X-rated video compact discs. Police led by Supt. Pablito Duron seized at least 200 pieces of pornographic VCDs and 50 pieces of smut magazines from the MGD Office Supplies and the Jolax Video Tapes reportedly owned by the suspects. The confiscated items were burned in public, witnessed by local officials. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Farmer shoots worker dead

CANDELARIA, Quezon—A farmer shot dead a laborer in Barangay Masalukot here on Tuesday. Police said victim Noel Carandang was walking home with his brother Ruben when they were met by suspect Efren Maghirang, a resident of Barangay Masin in the same town. Maghirang alighted from his jeep and confronted Carandang until a heated argument ensued. The suspect then drew his .45 cal. pistol and shot the victim several times, fatally hitting him in different parts of the body. The victim was rushed to the hospital but was declared dead on arrival. Police immediately arrested the suspect. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

2,991 villages powerless

LEGAZPI CITY—Some 2,991 of the 41,945 villages in the country still have no electricity, the Department of Energy said during the Philippine Energy Plan meet held here on July 29. Mindanao has the biggest number of villages without electricity, with 1,591 of its 10,026 barangays; Visayas with 751 of 11,443; and Luzon with 649 of its 20,476 barangays without power. Almost 93 percent of the country's barangays have power, Energy Undersecretary Guillermo Balce said. In Calabarzon, all the 828 barangays of Cavite have electricity while 47 barangays in Quezon have no power. Romblon and Marinduque's barangays in Mimaropa are all electrified while Palawan still has to supply power to 113, out of its 431 barangays. In Bicol, all the barangays in Camarines Sur and Sorsogon have power while Masbate has only 56 percent of its barangays with power. ***Jed Ll. Bacason, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

P1M in marijuana uprooted

CEBU CITY—Some P1 million worth of marijuana plants were uprooted by a joint police, military and antinarcotics team from farm plots in a hinterland village in Balamban town here. Balamban police chief SPO4 Marcial Montebon said the 40,000 marijuana stalks were planted in small plots in four adjacent sitios—Taro, Marapatan, Bagakay and Barangay Proper—in the village of Bayong, which is about 15 km from the town proper. Also seized from the site were at least a kilo of marijuana seeds. No arrest was made as no one was around when the law enforcers came, he said. ***Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Drive vs illegal logging

DUMAGUETE CITY—Negros Oriental Gov. George P. Arnaiz asked the Army and Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Units in the province to help in the campaign against slash and burn farming and illegal logging. Arnaiz also asked the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to deputize the Army and the Cafgus in implementing forestry laws. The governor recently met with 61st Infantry Battalion Commander Col. Norman Flores and other Army officers whom he talked with over continued slash and burn activities. ***Romy G. Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Aug. 4 is priests' day

Let us all pray for peace !

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—About 150 priests and religious of the San Pablo Diocese in Laguna and scores of Manila clerics will be among some 8,000 Roman Catholic clergy all over the country who will celebrate Priests Day tomorrow (Aug. 4), also in memory of St. John Maria Vianney, the Patron of Priests all over the world. The Manila Archdiocese will hold a concelebrated Mass presided by Bishop Gaudencio B. Rosales. The Laguna clergy decided to celebrate the occasion by praying for five days in a retreat for vocation, spiritual growth, national unity and peace. San Pablo Bishop Leo M. Drona said the Laguna clergy had chosen to hold the 5-day (Aug. 8-12) solemn retreat to allow priests to find deeper meaning in their vocations. ***Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

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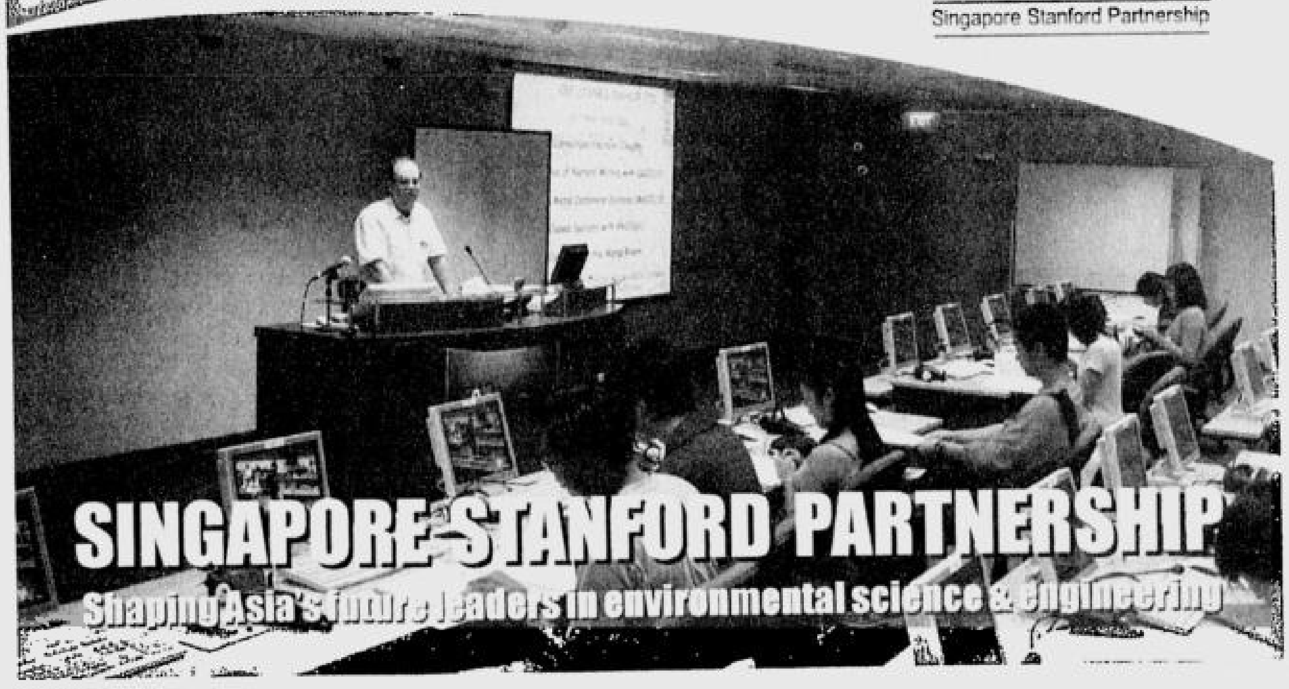
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3 bishops, 3 viewpoints: Repent, retreat, reflect

By Christian V. Esguerra

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo may be on a charm offensive these days, but a senior Roman Catholic bishop is anything but amused.

For Caloocan Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez, the President has not met the issues head-on and help clarify things.

"It seems that she's skirting the truth," Iñiguez, head of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) Episcopal Commission on Public Affairs, told reporters yesterday.

Over the past few days, Ms Arroyo has made herself more visible to the public, granting interviews left and right, and even allowing the media to ask about the issues she had so avoided in the past—election fraud and an illegal numbers game scandal.

Public longing for truth

But Ms Arroyo did not respond directly to point-blank questions like whether she was indeed the woman in the wiretapped conversations supposedly with former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

She consistently invoked the Constitution, claiming society has failed to protect her rights as an accused.

While Ms Arroyo's individual rights should indeed be respected, Iñiguez said the President should also consider that using the cloak of the Constitution would not bring any good to a public hungry for the truth.

"That is more important than just the personal rights of someone, especially those in government," he said. "The common good should always be the priority."

Not enough

Iñiguez was convinced the President had not done enough in response to the July 9 statement of the CBCP that went deep into the political scandal, setting it in the perspective of the Catholic Church, and offering opportunities for national reconciliation.

"Personally, I'm not very happy with the reaction," the bishop said.

The CBCP did not ask Ms Arroyo to resign but urged her not to dismiss calls for her to step down. It also asked Ms Arroyo to discern deeply to what extent she might have contributed to the erosion of effective governance.

Iñiguez said it was not clear to him if Malacañang, as it had announced, would still proceed with the establishment of a truth commission to look into allegations that Ms Arroyo cheated her way to office.

Nothing has been heard about the proposed body since Cabinet official Ricardo Saludo said it would purely be fact-finding, shortly before the President's State of the Nation Address on July 25.

It was not certain, either, if the commission, in case it was finally set up, would include in its investigation fresh allegations that Ms Arroyo had paid several election officials to ensure her victory in 2004.

CAPALLA

ROSALES

IÑIGUEZ

Closure needed

And while the public was still trying to sort out things amid confusing reports and accusations, there came the Malacañang proposal to adopt the parliamentary system of government, the bishop said.

"I don't think it's the problem right now," he said. What's needed, Iñiguez said, was closure to all the allegations floated against the President and the people around her, including members of the First Family.

"Her enemies will claim that she cheated but her allies would say she didn't," he observed. "It can't go on like this because the people are getting confused."

Iñiguez suggested that appropriate government agencies and constitutional bodies determine once and for all if Ms Arroyo had rigged the results of the presidential election and bribed election officials, and if she and her family benefited from jueteng.

Reconciliation

A retreat could settle the conflict between President Arroyo and her foes, according to Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla.

Capalla, outgoing CBCP president, said he was making himself available to facilitate a religious encounter between Ms Arroyo and the political opposition and all others criticizing her.

"If they want a retreat together, I can conduct it for them," he told reporters, in response to an e-mailed question. "Do they want to go to confession? I can also hear that."

Capalla's suggestion was consistent with his conviction that Filipinos, divided by politics, should work for national reconciliation.

This was also the meat of his message during the funeral Mass for former Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin on June 28. But militant priests like Fr. Robert Reyes slammed him for purportedly trumpeting the President's tired tack of seeking national reconciliation.

Facilitating a retreat or hearing a confession for warring political figures was the closest that Capalla was willing to involve himself amid the political scandal.

The soft-spoken bishop echoed Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales' position that as members of the clergy, "we are here to evangelize, not to politicize."

Too much freedom?

"We are supposed to be moral guides, not kingmakers or kingbashers," the CBCP president said.

Rosales wonders whether Filipinos were enjoying too much freedom for their own good.

He pointed this out in a recent interview with reporters in an attempt at diagnosing what ails Filipinos.

"Liberty here is being abused by Filipinos and we are good at that," he said. "Sometimes the best exercise of freedom is not to exercise it (at all). Let's think about that."

The most prominent manifestation of freedom were the two Edsa uprisings that unseated two presidents in just 15 years.

The 72-year-old Rosales, himself not a keen supporter of another Edsa, said Filipinos need not look far to know how they had been abusing democracy.

Discipline

One time in Bangkok on his way to Rome, the bishop recalled observing a group of five Filipinos smoking at the lounge while waiting for the next flight to Riyadh. To his surprise, they threw the cigarette butts on the carpeted floor when the trash can was just a few steps away.

"It hurt me," he said. "If this is the kind of behavior they show, they will never develop."

Sometimes, Rosales said, it was better to follow the model of Singapore, which is known for its strict policies to discipline its people.

"They curtail freedom but they are teaching people how to be disciplined," he said. "We don't have that here."

Who doesn't know Tita Baby Pineda?

From page A1

angelo Zuce claimed Baby was a willing accomplice to her husband in bribing election officials.

Baby was also depicted as the President's friend who went out of her way, to the point of handing money to election officials, to help ensure Ms Arroyo's victory in the May 10, 2004 elections.

Republic of the Philippines
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CAB CASE NO. EP-27186

EMIRATES,
Petitioner.
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The above-entitled case is scheduled for hearing on **August 18, 2005** at **3:00 P.M.** at the CAB Conference Room, Old MIA Road, Pasay City before the undersigned at which the applicant shall present relevant evidence.

The applicant is hereby required to have this Notice of Hearing published at least once two (2) weeks before the scheduled hearing in a newspaper of general circulation.

Let a copy of the petition and this Notice be posted at the CAB Bulletin Board beginning today.

22 July 2005
Pasay City, Philippines

(Sgd.) FREDERICK DG. VILLARIN
Hearing Officer

Copy furnished:

ATTY. RONALD A. LEDESMA
Counsel for petitioner
Puno and Puno Law Offices
12th Floor East Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Centre
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Atty. Roberto C.O. Lim
Counsel for PAL
9/F, PAL Center, Legaspi St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City

Mrs. Ma. Socorro R. Gonzaga
Senior Assistant Vice-President-External Affairs
Philippine Airlines, Inc.
7th Floor, PAL Center
Legaspi Street, Legaspi Village
Makati City

(PDI - August 3, 2005)

She did both, as Zuce alleged and another witness Sandra Cam earlier claimed, with the supposed consent of the President as the alleged bribery took place right in Ms Arroyo's house at La Vista Subdivision in Quezon City.

This portrayal of Baby has angered her friend and colleague, Board Member Liberty Lim.

"If I can just pull [Cam's] hair. [Baby] is not that [type of person]," Lim said Monday.

Baby, through her lawyer Roberto Abad, has dismissed the allegations as "dastardly lies."

Politics, gambling

While trying to carve out a career independent of her husband, Baby is undeniably the other half in the perceived marriage of politics and gambling. The couple represented that, according to a former official who hails from Lubao.

Bong, the official said, went outside the mold of a typical jueteng lord. He did not only secure his illegal enterprise through politics by buying protection from authorities but also financed the campaigns of politicians, mobilizing his extensive network of employees as campaign machinery for them, the official said.

Bong denied this in the 1996 congressional inquiry on jueteng. In 1998, two courts cleared him of charges involving corruption of public officials.

The "Jueteng-gate" scandal that precipitated the downfall of President Joseph Estrada in 2001 again showed Bong's hand in getting a president elected and sustained through protection money, as Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, the scandal's whistleblower, bared.

Bong also built a mini-political empire in Lubao, fielding his wife in politics in 1995 and later, his son Dennis, now the town mayor.

Her own person

By the descriptions of several sources, Baby is her own person, someone who has been struggling to get out of her husband's shadow and the supposed dark image that came with it.

As a wife, Baby supervised her husband's much-anticipated gift-giving activities during Christmas and other holidays. She coordinates these activities, filling a big open garage at their house in Barangay Concepcion in Lubao with thousands of bags of goodies.

This generosity, while viewed by some in Lubao as springing from kindness, is seen by critics as a way of sustaining patronage.

In parties Bong hosted, with local and national officials in attendance, it was Baby who chose the menu and the caterer. The couple entertained the guests until the wee hours.

When politicians could not reach her husband, they seek out Baby as their intermediary.

'Businesswoman'

Baby, in past interviews, did not say if she willed to join politics or if her husband forced her into it.

In an interview in 2000, it was apparent that Bong guided his wife through. "[Bong] makes sure I do right in my job as a mayor; that I would do my utmost to serve the town," she said.

Baby does not seem to have any hand in running her husband's purported jueteng enterprise.

When she aspired for a second term in the provincial board in May last year, Baby, a former coconut juice and snack vendor in local cockpits, identified herself as a "businesswoman" in her certificate of candidacy.

Her businesses include restaurants, a caregiver school, an overseas job recruitment agency and a hardware store, the INQUIRER learned.

Sharing with poor

A source who works at the Lubao municipal government portrayed Baby as somebody who took portions of her husband's wealth to share with the poor.

Other sources said Baby had been a patron of the Mariveles Mental Hospital in Bataan.

She helps about 100 cancer patients by paying for their chemotherapy and dialysis treatments, done through a doctor-relative in this city.

Two board members said Baby's trucks were always ready to distribute relief packs to victims of floods in Pampanga's second district. In December last year, she went as far as Dingalan, Aurora, with five trucks in tow, to give relief goods to landslide victims.

Also last year, she supported protesting government health workers, facilitating their dialogue with Gov. Mark Lapid from whom they demanded their long-delayed hazard pay.

Unanswered questions

At crunch time, as in the October 2001 Senate hearing on jueteng, Baby subbed for her husband, who was summoned to appear before the investigation.

At risk to her political career, she faced senators to answer their questions on her husband's whereabouts and if he indeed operated jueteng.

Baby told the senators that Bong was in the United States for a medical checkup and for a hair transplant. The rest of the questions she left unanswered, telling them that a wife did not know everything.

Last week's events indicated that Baby has ceased being a mere wife or provincial board member. It was the first time that her husband's affairs cast doubt on her.

And while putting up a fighting form, she appeared unable to take the heat and the shame that went with it.

Extended leave

On Monday, Baby sought an extension of her July 11-29 leave of absence from the provincial board until Aug. 15. She cited "medical and personal reasons," according to board secretary Luis Rivera.

Lim found it unbelievable that her friend would be present in the La Vista occasion. Baby, she said, nursed an aversion for the President.

Aversion to GMA?

According to Lim, Baby felt offended that then Vice President Arroyo had to first ask for the permission of the late Jaime Cardinal Sin if she could stand in as sponsor in the wedding of Pineda's son, Dennis, in 1999.

This incident, Lim said, defined Baby's relation with the President later.

"She's this woman who wants to be on her own. All that she dreamed of doing was to help the needy," Lim said.

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FX taxis strike over route, phaseout

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PHASE OUT

OFFICERS of the Confederation of FX, Highlander, AUV Operators & Drivers' Association (COFHAODA) protest the planned phaseout of AUVs (Asian Utility Vehicles) by the Land Transportation Office in a press conference in Quezon City yesterday. LYN RILLON

By Clarissa S. Batino

DON'T count on your reliable FX route today.

Thousands of operators and drivers of FX and other Asian utility vans (AUVs) are expected to abandon their routes today and troop to the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) offices this morning to protest new rules on the operation of their units.

Jun Magno, president of the Confederation of FX/Highlander/AUV Operators & Drivers' Association said a recent LTFRB order would kill their sector.

The group has about 14,000 members in Metro Manila and nearby regions and about 56,000 nationwide, according to Magno.

"We are expecting no less than 5,000 to join the strike (today)," he said, noting commitments from Taguig, Pateros, Pasig, Marikina, Bulacan, Buendia, Cavite and Las Piñas.

The protest stems from the planned implementation later this week of the AUV Express scheme.

The scheme aims to relegitimize the operation of air-conditioned vans by converting the franchise of "For Hire" and "Garage Service" units, and setting their routes.

Magno said an LTFRB circular on the implementation of the AUV Express issued July 21 posed many problems for FX operators.

First, it prohibited the conversion of FX models from 1996 and older. Magno said the prohibition would effectively phase out 7,000 units.

No pick up-drop off

The confederation is also objecting to a provision requiring AUV Express units not to pick-and-drop between terminals.

"This will be very inconvenient to passengers because we cannot load or unload," he said.

Related to that, AUV groups will be required to put up their own terminals which must have a waiting lounge, toilet with diaper station and food outlets.

"It's like they want us to be like an airport," Magno said.

Worse, he said, was that the LTFRB would mail the holders of the franchises supposedly qualified for conversion into AUV Express. Magno said this process would create problems for many franchise holders.

Onerous terms

Magno suspected that the "onerous" terms of the order could have been influenced by the interest of jeepney groups, which signed an agreement with the transportation department for a five-year moratorium on strikes.

"I think our position was affected by a bargaining made by the jeeps," he said.

Allaying fears of commuters who rely on AUVs, an AUV transport group official said not all units would abandon their routes.

Al Tan, president of the United Transport Services of Rizal, said he was not requiring all his members to join the strike.

Tan's group, made up to 10 AUV organizations with about 1,000 members, plies the Rizal-Ayala route.

Angat Dam supply not enough for Metro by 2010

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Bulacan's Angat Dam cannot sufficiently meet the domestic needs of Metro Manila by 2010, a water expert said.

Guillermo Tabios, chief of the National Hydraulic Research Center of the University of the Philippines, said a solution to the problem is for the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) to give up its share of irrigation water drawn from Angat Dam. Tabios raised the NIA option as the domestic water demand in the country's capital is expected to reach as much as 60 to 65 cubic meters per second (cms) in five years.

Rights to at least 31 cms of Angat reservoir's 69 cms had been granted to the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS). At that rate, Angat supplies 65 percent of Metro Manila's requirements. The NIA holds 36 cms for 28,000 hectares in Bulacan and Pampanga. The rest, as well as the volume from the MWSS and the NIA, is allocated to the National Power Corp. The dam supplies 5 percent of electricity needs to Luzon.

Thousands of farmers are expected to suffer the brunt should NIA decide to give up its share, Tabios said, adding that the NIA move would only be possible if farmers stop tilling irrigated lands. Tabios said water concessionaires Maynilad and Manila Water, like the MWSS, should "look beyond Angat." Alternative sources are Laiban Dam in Laguna and Umiray Dam near the Aurora and Quezon boundary. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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Not lucky on the third try

AFTER eluding law enforcers hot on his trail on two occasions, an alleged supplier of methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) in the cities of Caloocan and Manila was arrested the other day in his home.

Omar Dimas, 30, of C. Domato Street, Phase 12, Bagong Silang, Caloocan City, was apprehended for violation of Republic Act 9165 or the Comprehensive Drugs Act of 2002, a non-bailable offense.

20 grams of shabu

National Bureau of Investigation Anti Illegal Drugs Task Force chief Ruel Lasala said they found 20 grams of shabu in Dimas' possession during the raid.

"Our informants said Dimas is one of the biggest suppliers of the illegal substance in Caloocan and in Sta. Cruz, Quiapo, and Tondo in Manila;" said Lasala. *Margaux C. Ortiz*

Roldan, companions enter not guilty plea

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

FORMER Quezon City congressman and actor Dennis Roldan yesterday pleaded not guilty to the kidnap-for-ransom charges filed against him and five other suspects.

Roldan, whose real name is Mitchell Gumabao, has been accused of masterminding the kidnapping of a 3-year-old boy in February. His group allegedly asked for P250 million at the start of the negotiations for the boy's release. Five others accused of the crime also pleaded not guilty during their arraignment yesterday.

Warrants issued

The Pasig City Regional Trial Court had also issued an arrest warrant against Suzette Wang, Roldan's alleged girlfriend and cohort, after finding probable cause in the case the Department of Justice filed against her.

Roldan remained composed and quiet throughout the arraignment. He was seated beside his daughter on the left side of the courtroom, surrounded by his lawyers and relatives. In the other end of the room, the father of his alleged victim also remained silent during the proceedings.

Roldan arrived from the Pasig City Jail with the others accused of the crime: Noel San Andres, Rowena San Andres, Romeo Orcajada and Adrian Domingo. Octavio Garces, whom the court allowed to stay at the Philippine National Police Custodial Service, arrived late.

Garces had testified that Roldan and Wang masterminded the kidnapping on Feb. 9 in Pasig City, while the boy was on his way to school.

The victim was rescued on Feb. 19 while Roldan and his alleged cohorts were arrested in separate areas in Quezon City the following day.

Right after his arraignment, Roldan immediately filed an application for bail. The petition is still awaiting resolution by Pasig City Regional Trial Court Judge Agnes Carpio next week.

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MMDA set to clear Baclaran streets

By Tarra V. Quismundo

HOPING to return to a place where its men were not welcome, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has set a meeting with Parañaque City officials to make a pitch for the revival of its sidewalk clearing operations in the busy Baclaran area.

"Our intention is to clear the road for the implementation of the OBR (Organized Bus Route scheme) where buses need to be limited to the outer lanes. We cannot do this now because there are vendors on the service road," said Bobby Esquivel, chief of the MMDA Sidewalk Clearing Operations Group (SCOG).

Esquivel was referring to the stretch of Roxas Boulevard within Baclaran where illegal vendors had returned with their wares, occupying at least 150 meters of the service road. The MMDA's demolition teams were kept out of the area for the meantime more than a year ago.

The 300-meter Redemptorist Road, a street leading to one of the country's most visited Catholic shrines - the Baclaran Redemptorist Church - again teemed with vendors when clearing operations stopped last year, said Esquivel.

To give way to the planned full implementation of the OBR, a limited bus dispatch scheme based on commuter volume on Edsa and connected thoroughfares, these roads must be clear of vendors, said Esquivel.

The Baclaran area is an endpoint destination for buses plying the Fairview-Baclaran route.

The MMDA had already established a terminal there for the organized dispatch of buses.

"There could be thousands of illegal vendors again. If we remove them, we would be able to have another lane for vehicles," Esquivel said.

In their talks scheduled this month, the MMDA will discuss the resumption of SCOG operations which were halted during the election season last year when vendors were allowed to do business on the sidewalk.

"That was really just temporary. We know that since these vendors do not have permits, we could remove them anytime," said Esquivel.

The new wave of operations would be conducted the usual way, meaning SCOG teams would dismantle stalls and confiscate goods sold on sidewalks and the service road.

SCOG operations ended violently on several occasions in the past, resulting in casualties on both sides.

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Baywalk light fatal for girl

By Margaux C. Ortiz and Tina G. Santos

A 7-YEAR-OLD girl was electrocuted on Manila's Baywalk in Manila Monday night.

Jessa Tablan, of 118 Estrella St., Pasay City, was bathing in a heavy downpour with two other girls at 6:35 p.m. when she stepped on a decorative ground light, said PO2 Carlos Santos of the Manila Police District Homicide Section.

Witnesses said Tablan, who was barefoot, was suddenly thrown into the air and landed a few meters away.

Her body was still smoking when it was retrieved by bystanders, police said.

She was brought to the Ospital ng Manila but was declared dead on arrival.

Santos said Tablan appeared to have stepped on a live wire. But the matter was still under investigation, he added.

"It was an accident," the policeman said, stressing that the ground light appeared to have been functioning normally.

Santos said they would be looking into possible negligence by those tasked to maintain the lights.

Mayor Lito Atienza has ordered the city fire and engineering departments to investigate the matter. "It was a very sad accident. I already asked fire and engineering officials to check what really happened to see what went wrong," Atienza said.

The mayor added that he also ordered a check on all electrical connections at the park. "I don't want this to happen again," he said.

He said the ground lights were installed six months ago and were supposed to be water proof.

"It was a confluence of events. It happened at the height of a thunderstorm. The area was flooded and the children were playing barefoot in the area," Atienza said.

Atienza also ordered Secretary to the Mayor Emmanuel Sison to extend help to Tablan's family.

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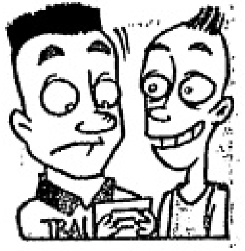
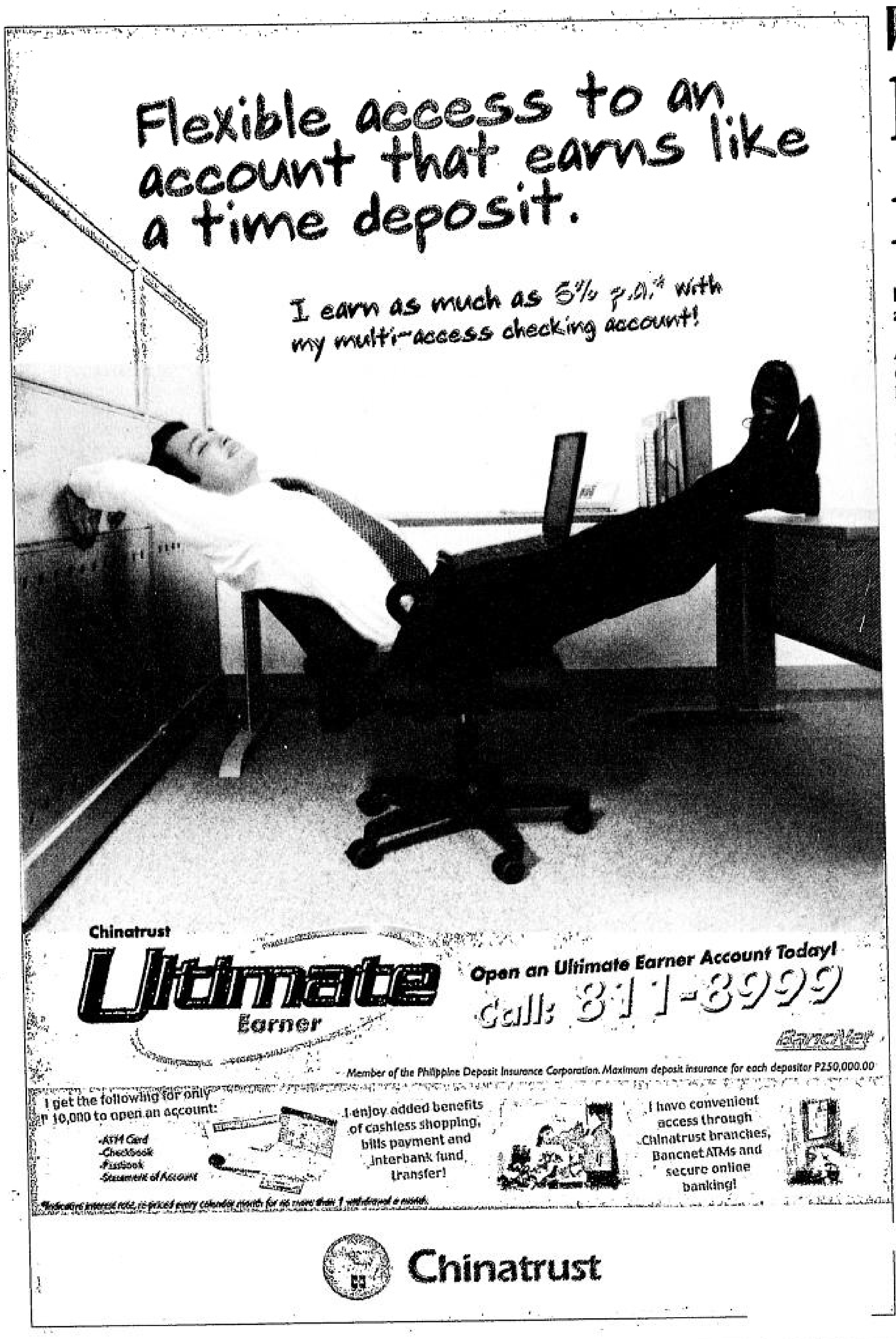


SIGNING a waiver would no longer be enough to work out in Muntinlupa City. If a proposed ordinance is enacted, fitness buffs in the city would be required to submit a medical certificate to be able to join health clubs, fitness salons and aerobic gyms. Councilor Luisa Echavez, who authored of the measure, explained that medical certification would guide the health instructors in choosing the physical program fit for its clients. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

City officials box it out

TENSION briefly interrupted the birthday celebration of Malabon City Mayor Canuto Oreta Saturday morning when Councilor Alfonso Mañalac and press officer Allan Encarnacion suddenly engaged in a fist fight. Mañalac and Encarnacion traded blows after reportedly disagreeing on what the mayor should do next during the celebration. Mañalac said he wanted Oreta to shake hands with his supporters but Encarnacion said it was time to distribute bags of groceries to residents. *Nancy C. Carvajal*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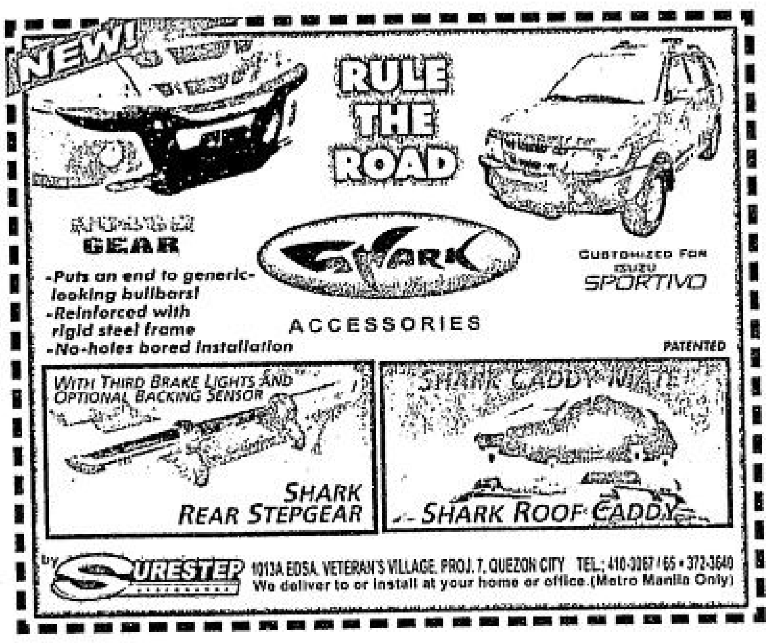

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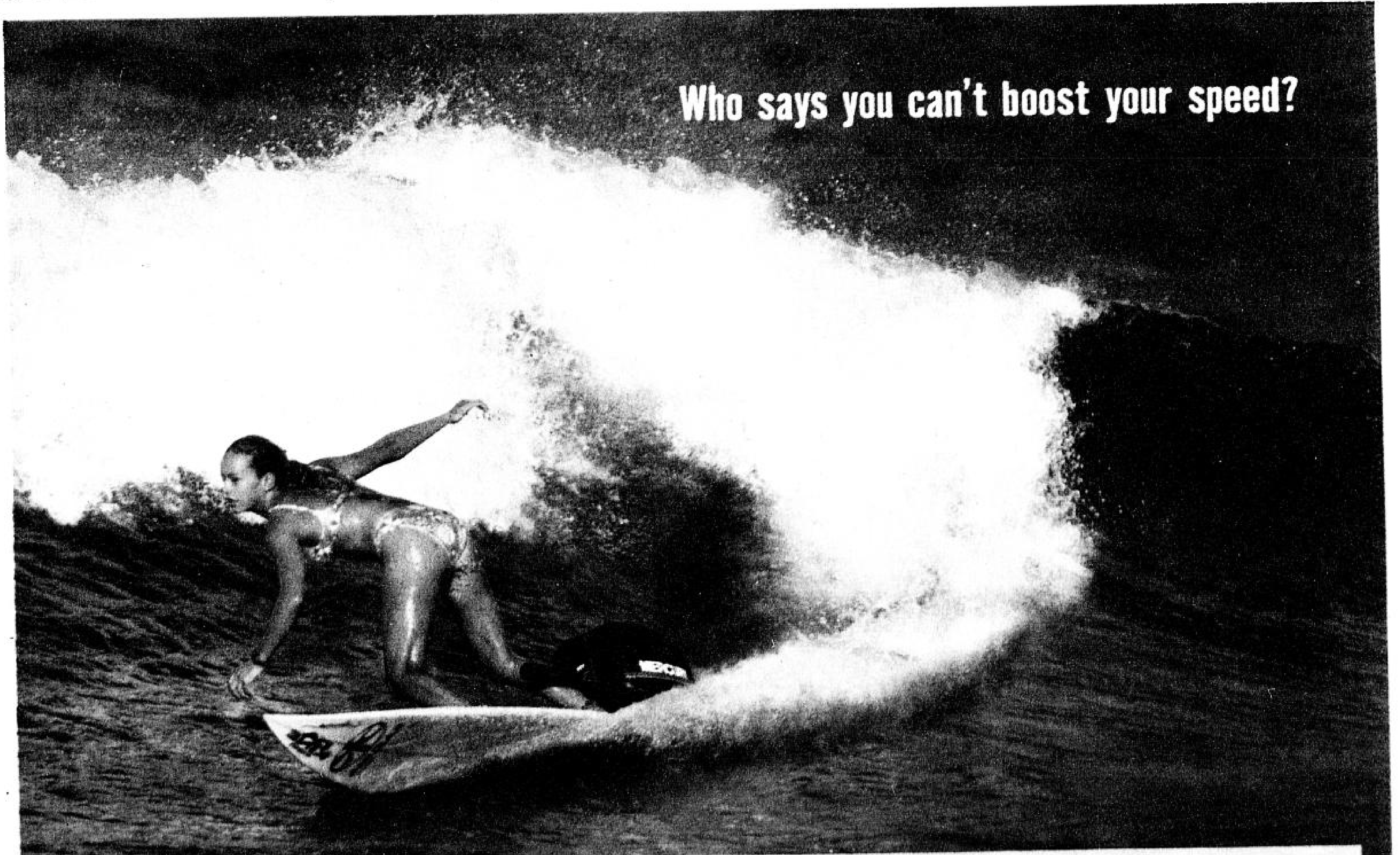
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BASKETBALL: NBA Rocky Mountain Revue—Hawks vs Mavericks; 7:30 a.m. (r-midnight); Solar Sports—Atlanta and Dallas clash in this off-season duel.

WNBA—Sting vs Mystics; 8 a.m. (r-4 p.m.); ESPN—Charlotte takes on Washington as the race for the playoffs heats up.

BILLIARDS: Rack 'Em Up; 6 p.m.; ESPN—Check out Filipino pool legends Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante in this classic encounter.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Shell gets PBA leave of absence

But not before trading off Alvarez, Dela Cruz, Mamaril in eye-popping deals

By Musong R. Castillo

ALVAREZ: PDI PHOTO

DELA CRUZ PDI PHOTO

MAMARIL PDI PHOTO

TAKING a business-like approach to solve its woes, Shell formally requested for a year's leave of absence from the Philippine Basketball Association, a request approved in principle by the league's board of governors in a meeting yesterday.

Shell's request is seen as an apparent move to salvage a few gains after negotiations with erstwhile potential buyer Harbour Centre bogged down late Monday.

The move also allows the Shell head office in Europe to re-think its options after a year.

The Turbo Chargers' leave, which will be formalized on Friday, left the league with just nine teams for next season—and a lot of loose ends to tie up.

Player dispersal

On top of the list is the dispersal of Shell's players, although the Turbo Chargers have already jumped the gun by negotiating a pair of seemingly one-sided deals.

Rookie of the Year Rich Alvarez and RP team pool member Tony dela Cruz, one of the most talented players right now, are being dangled to Alaska for back-up forward Rob Duat, seldom-used bench player Eugene Tejada and a first-round pick in this year's rookie draft.

Beefy starter Billy Mamaril, on the other hand, is being dealt to Coca-Cola for third-string center Gilbert Lao.

Both deals have to be approved by league commissioner Noli Eala.

Eala, who has only seen the Shell-Alaska deal, said that it was "an exercise of a valid right by a member of good standing."

"The board felt that it was a valid trade," Eala said. "We have to balance the interest of Shell with the interest of keeping parity in the league."

The players that will be left untouched, plus Shell's inherent draft rights and the ones it will inherit by way of trades, will be dealt out to the nine remaining squads by way of a dispersal draft, which Eala hopes to hold during the annual rookie draft this month.

Teams that will absorb these players will also assume their contracts.

Uneven number

The league will also have to redo its format next season, now that it is left with an uneven number of teams.

So far, the only thing approved for next season is the 6-foot-6 height limit for imports in the first conference.

Shell entered the league in 1985 after buying the Crispa franchise, winning championships in the 1990 and 1992 First Conference, the 1998 Governors Cup and the 1999 All-Filipino.

Shell, which bought the Redmanizers' franchise reportedly for less than P2 million, started looking for buyers for its franchise this year after television ratings and live gate receipts both plummeted to alarming lows.

The Turbo Chargers drew interest from two Philippine Basketball League teams, Welcoat and Harbour Centre.

Welcoat immediately moved away from the talks, balking at the stiff asking price of P60 million.

Harbour Centre countered with a P25-million offer initially before ultimately ending up with a P35-million proposal payable in installments of P15 million, P10 million and P10 million for the next three years.

Still, Shell feels that the franchise is worth much more.

Second fold-up

This is the second team fold-up since the turn of the millennium.

Tanduay, which entered the league through a whopping P70-million franchise fee, bolted the league in 2001.

Tanduay milked all it could from its team by selling the franchise to FedEx for P63 million and trading off its superstar players—Eric Menk, Dondon Hontiveros and Rudy Hatfield—in three separate deals that were also seemingly one-sided.

Tanduay traded Menk to Ginebra for back-up center Alex Crisano and Elmer Lago. Hontiveros was shipped to San Miguel Beer in exchange for Freddie Abuda. Hatfield was dealt to Pop Cola (now Coca-Cola) along with Pido Jarencio for Noli Locsin. Interestingly, none of the players Tanduay got from those deals ended up playing for FedEx.

Shell will become only the second team in the PBA's rich history to file for a leave of absence since 1985, when the San Miguel franchise temporarily left the play-for-pay league.

San Miguel returned to the league in 1987 with the finest amateurs in its roster, including future Hall-of-Famers Samboy Lim and Hector Calma, to establish a dynasty late in the decade.

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RP hosts World Cup equestrian

THE PHILIPPINES, already one of the region's equestrian heavyweights, hopes to raise its stock a few notches more when it hosts the final leg of the World Cup for Southeast Asia in November.

The final tune-up event for the Southeast Asian Games will be held at the Alabang Country Club, the site of the SEAG competitions.

Philippine Equestrian Federation secretary general Karisa Coscoluella said that aside from the chance to gauge their strength against SEAG rivals, the country's riders can also earn points in the five-leg World Cup eliminations.

"The team is now preparing for one of the World Cup legs slated in Malaysia," said Coscoluella during a SCOOP sa Kamayan forum.

She said Toni Leviste and Jones Lanza will banner the RP challenge in the Alabang competitions. Leviste was part of the silver medal-winning team in the 2002 Asian Games, while Lanza bagged the show jumping gold in the 1995 SEAG.

Marc Anthony Reyes

Knights stake clean record vs Bombers

STANDINGS	W	L
Letran	7	0
PCU	6	2
Mapua	5	2
SSC	4	4
Benilde	3	5
Perpetual	2	5
San Beda	2	6
JRU	1	6

GAMES TODAY
(*Cuneta Astrodome*)
2 p.m.—Perpetual vs Mapua (Srs)
4 p.m.—Jose Rizal U vs Letran (Srs)
6 p.m.—Jose Rizal U vs Letran (Jrs)

THE LETRAN Knights put away the first-round pennant of the NCAA basketball tournament with an exclamation point. But coach Louie Alas remains unimpressed.

"I'm happy with the sweep but it doesn't mean anything yet," said Alas, whose Knights battle the Jose Rizal U Bombers at 4 p.m. today at the Cuneta Astrodome.

"This is just the start of real work. We're not even halfway. We have to work as hard as before."

The Mapua Cardinals will also try to sustain their big first-round form when they battle the University of Perpetual Help Altas at 2 p.m.

Letran claimed the solo lead by halting the streaking Philippine Christian U Dolphins, 70-64, last Wednesday.

The Knights have been leaning on a balanced scoring led by Aaron Aban (13.3 points per game), Jonathan Aldave (11.7) and JP Alcaraz (11.3).

Although the odds favor the Intramuros-based Knights, the Bombers remain hopeful after closing the first round with a 67-55 win over the San Sebastian Stags.

"I hope we sustain our intensity in the second round," said JRU mentor Cris Calilan.

Coach Horacio Lim also expects consistent plays from his Cardinals, particularly rookie sensation Kelvin dela Peña.

"It was good he recovered from a two-game slump," said Lim of the Fil-Canadian guard. "He's very talented. I know he can take charge."

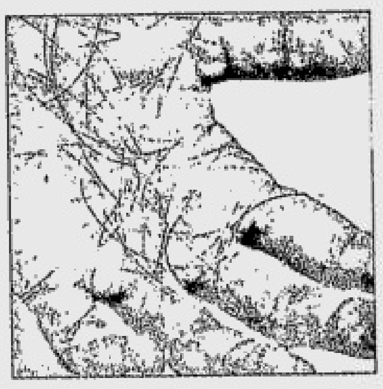
The 6-foot-1 Dela Peña is the only rookie in the league's top 10 players, statistics-wise, at the end of the first round. He finished sixth overall, averaging 10.4 points and ranking second both in assists (3.3 apg) and steals (2.3 spg).

The Altas, meanwhile, are hoping for a lot of improvement after a paltry 2-5 record.

"Every game, we now have to push ourselves," said coach Bai Cristobal, who steered the Altas to a runner-up finish last season. "All our remaining games are important."

Jasmine W. Payo

Receding hairline



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Jets end Cebu five's streak in OT

MINGLANILLA, Cebu—The Parañaque Jets snapped defending champion Tribu Sugbu's 16-game home winning streak by hacking out an 83-80 overtime thriller Monday in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the Sports Center here.

Rolly Basilides and Nino Marquez scored nine of the KSK Food Products-backed Jets' 11 points in the extra period to raise their team's record to 5-6.

Over at the MSU-IIT gym in Iligan City, Mayor Lawrence Cruz's Iligan Crusaders crushed the Bacchus/Harbour Centre-backed Manila squad, 84-65, for their sixth win in 10 games.

Tribu's playmaker Ronald Bucao opened the fourth with a triple to give the Cebuanos a 56-55 lead. The two teams then battled through 12 lead changes until Tribu's Alex Cainglet scored on a drive with 22 seconds left to extend the game.

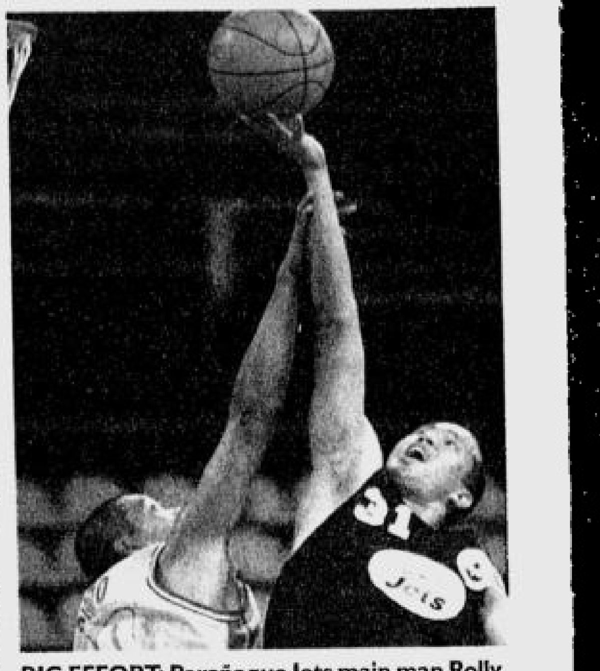
Parañaque Vice Mayor and actor/TV host Anjo Yllana saw action for the first time in the third quarter and contributed one assist.

Tribu seeks to rebound against the Iloilo Warriors at 6 p.m. today at the USA gym in Iloilo City.

Ozamiz leads the Southern Conference at 7-2, followed by Tribu (7-3), Mantawi (5-3), Iligan (6-4), Valencia (5-5), CdO Stars (2-4), Iloilo (2-6) and Zanorte (1-8).

Forward Taguig paces the Northern Conference at 6-0, followed by Laguna (5-3), Cavite (6-5), Parañaque, Baguio (1-5) and Manila (0-3).

The tournament is backed by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Accel, Molten, Sunbolt Sports Drink, Nature's Spring, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz, Hapee, Dewfoam, KSK Food Products (Boy Bawang), Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.



BIG EFFORT: Parañaque Jets main man Rolly Basilides (right) in file photo.

The scores:

First Game

ILIGAN 84—Cavan 19, Mendoza 19, Barbosa 10, Ayodelle 7, De Guzman 6, Fajardo 5, Roque 5, Reyes 4, Dy 3, Oliveros 0, Torio 0, Faustino 0, Baguio 0, Canoy 0.

MANILA 65—Enrile 14, Hardin 13, Sta. Cruz 8, Rauschmayer 8, Epondulan 6, Gamboa 6, Coyukang 4, Cordero 3, Hudencial 3, Reroma 0, Pile 0, Chua 0.

Quarters: 24-15, 45-44, 65-48, 84-65

Second Game

PARAÑAQUE 83—Basilides 18, Lopez 12, Marquez 11, Bognot 9, Saquilayan 7, Balingit 6, Guiyab 6, Rodriguez 6, Yambao 4, Tolentino 2, Ruiz 2.

TRIBU 80—Cainglet 11, Mercado 11, Rañeses 9, Mangubat 9, Almacin 8, Bucao 6, Ursal 6, Guerrero 6, Ignacio 4, Luga 2, Paglinawan 2, Pening 2.

Quarters: 15-17, 30-33, 55-53, 72-72, 83-80 (OT)

Mandaluyong: Toying with a death bomb

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THERE are, at this writing, four dead men lying in state in our village, Barangay Vergara in Mandaluyong by the Pasig River.

We're in that period of bereavement, and I should properly be skipping this piece in deference to the dead.

All of the deceased were either very close or related to me.

But I find it my duty to report a lethal stupidity that should not escape the concern of authorities, from the President down to Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes.

For starters, the dreary development—four dead, four wakes, all at the same time in one village—has readily aroused curiosity.

The deaths have predictably moved the old, pious women to again bring out the image of San Roque, dubbed the patron against plague and pestilence, and carry it in procession in the barrio streets.

* * *

The dead men (in the order of their passing) are: 1) German Macalanda, 73; 2) Gregorio Galang, 64; 3) Side Manansala, 63; 4) Tirso Cruz, 83.

Macalanda, my *kumpadre* from Urbiztondo, Pangasinan, who settled down in Vergara, died of heart seizure.

Galang, a schoolmate in the old, wooden Namayan Primary School, died of cirrhosis of the liver and related complications. A member of Samahang Alige, he cut his hands helping build the riverside public park, a village centerpiece.

Manansala, a barangay councilor and also my *kumpadre*, was a victim of hypertension.

Cruz, father of our barangay chair Lily dela Cruz and a revered figure in the whole of Mandaluyong, died of multiple organ failure.

* * *

All of the deceased, except for Macalanda, died of natural causes.

The old man, a quiet, well-admired retiree who sold tomatoes and *bagoong* outside their gate, was a victim of official irresponsibility, if not outright stupidity on the part of city officials.

A crime was committed against Macalanda and members of his family by members of the Mayor's Anti-Vice Squad.

These self-styled crime fighters, who obviously have had no sensible training, swooped down on the Macalanda residence on Thursday evening.

They trespassed and invaded the compound trying to arrest Noel Dizon, son-in-law of Macalanda, on suspicion of collecting horse race bets for a bookie joint, an illegal practice.

Please take note that the armed raiders had no warrant with them. They also did not coordinate with the officers in the barangay hall, two houses away from the Macalanda compound.

* * *

They tried all corners, they dug deep into the household and even upturned pots in the kitchen. No evidence was found.

There was one Dividendazo race program recovered, but this was exactly what all those who bet in legit off-track stations all over the country use.

It's the same one we rely on in our random tries on assorted thoroughbreds, including the ones our new neighbor, jockey Ricardo Silva of Batangas, mounts.

For the record, there indeed had been illegal betting on horse races in our barrio, but all this happened in the past.

Since the full-scale establishment of the legit, reliable and definitely more popular off-track betting (OB) stations, bookie joints that often undercut winners by declaring a *discuento* had been washed away.

Dizon has indeed been collecting bets, including from our group, but he places all these, using a *ruta*, at the legit booths.

He makes a little sum through percentages on wagers.

* * *

Anyway, a commotion ensued when Dizon refused to go with the wild raiders.

They were shoving and shouting. Dizon's youngest son got so agitated he threatened to hit the raiders with a shovel.

A gun was drawn and poked at the pesky teenager.

All the while, old man Macalanda had been trembling in a corner.

The Macalanda household swore they had begged with the anti-vice men not to be harsh as the old man had a heart condition.

Macalanda could've survived the crime. But the sight of a gun threatening the life of his grandson caused the old pacifist to collapse and suffer a fatal seizure, family members swore.

"It's a crime and somebody must answer for it," protested Vic Victoria, former city chief operating officer.

"There definitely was no bookie operation in Vergara," assured chief barangay coordinator Rico de la Cruz, himself a horse race aficionado. De la Cruz scored columnist Bening Batuigas of Pinoy Ngayon who wrongly claimed a bookie joint was in operation in the Macalanda compound.

* * *

So what fueled the fatal fuss?

Bening Santos of the jeepney village drivers group said the Office of the Mayor, through its anti-vice squad, obviously wanted to score following published allegations about the proliferation of illegal gambling in Mandaluyong.

"*Gusto magpakita* (they wanted to show off)," Santos told the INQUIRER.

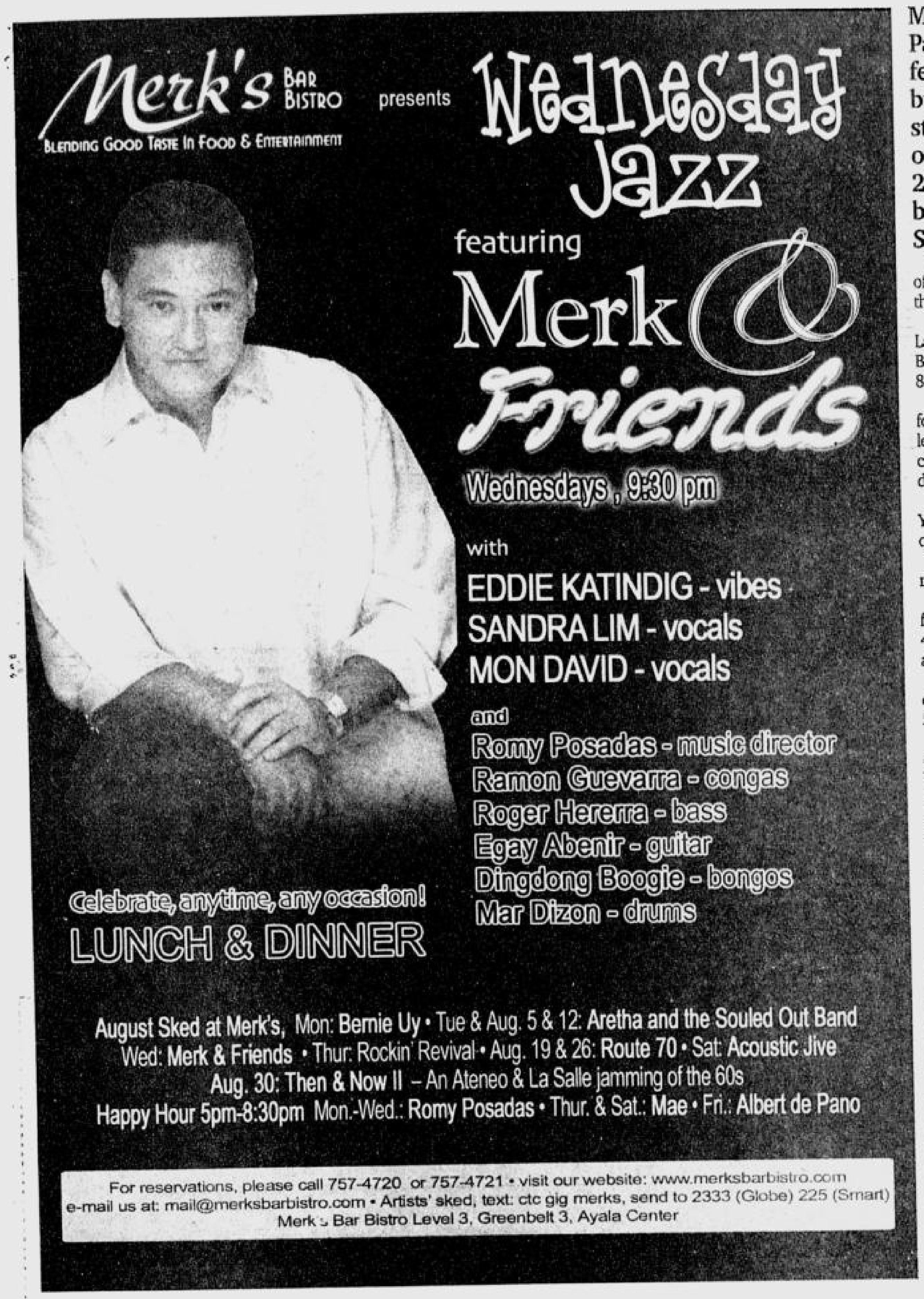
Mayor Gonzales dropped by and paid respects to the deceased on Friday. Gonzales vowed an investigation.

However, that evening, the same anti-vice team reportedly conducted another raid in a red-light district of the city.

Nobody suffered a fatal attack this time. But the fact that the reckless members of the mayor's anti-vice unit continue to wreck havoc around means that city residents, like the quiet, well-admired Macalanda, will never be safe.

Aggrieved residents cried firing squad (for the raiders). An immediate grounding, pending investigation, was in order.

With the handpicked (by political cronies) operatives being criminally condoned, the Mayor's Office is toying with a death bomb.



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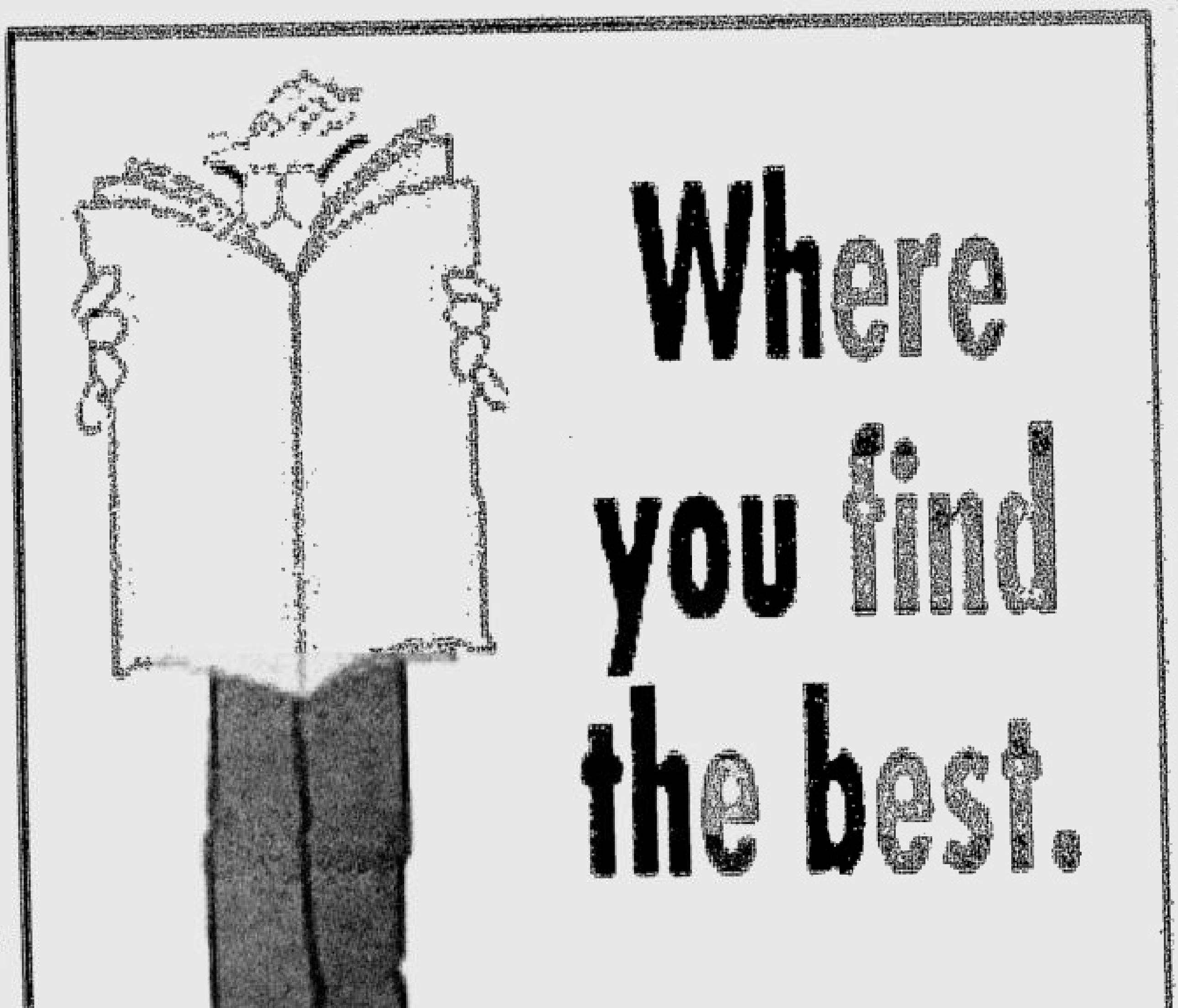

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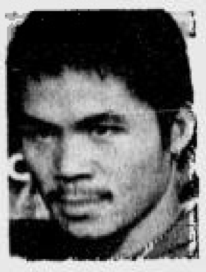
Pacquiao defers US trip, trains in Cebu

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor


PACQUIAO

FILIPINO boxing icon Manny Pacquiao will make do with local training for the time being.

Postponing his United States trip originally scheduled Monday night, Pacquiao will instead proceed to Cebu tomorrow to spend some quality training time at the Cebu gym of noted boxing promoter Wakee Salud.

Pacquiao will immediately buckle down to work upon arrival as he prepares for his Sept. 10 non-title duel with Mexican Hector Velasquez at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, California, where he will co-headline a card with Erik Morales on March 19.

Morales takes on ex-Olympian Zahir Raheem in the other fight.

Pacquiao will head for the US on Sunday to continue his training at the famous Wild Card Gym of Freddie Roach in Los Angeles.

If both Morales and Pacquiao emerge victorious, promoter Bob Arum has lined up a December date with HBO for the duo to do a repeat of their March 19 clash won by Morales.

The rematch is expected to be even bigger than the first encounter in terms of pay-per-view sales and gate receipts.

Salud said he will make the necessary preparations in terms of security as throngs of fans are expected to line up at the gym's entrance just to take a look at Pacquiao, who remains largely popular in Cebu despite reports of his nocturnal forays to cockfighting arenas and billiard parlors.

"He is still a hero to many, because his is a story of triumph over poverty," said Salud.

Salud is preparing his prized ward Yukka Gejon, who will vie for the WBA world 105-lb crown on Sept. 25 in Yokohama, Japan.

PUYAT SPORTS
BUSTAMANTE: World money-list leader

Django halts slump, sweeps US 9-ball tilt

ALEXANDRIA, Virginia—Filipino Francisco "Django" Bustamante rediscovered his old touch at the right time to repeat over American Robert Ray, 11-5, and sweep the 2005 Masters 9-Ball tournament at the Q-Masters Billiard in Virginia Beach, Virginia, recently.

Bustamante, the world's top player in 1998, trailed at 5-1 before he seized the break and took the next 10 racks. He pocketed the $5,000 champion's purse with an unblemished record.

On his way to the finals, the 41-year-old Bustamante beat Scott Guschel, 9-1, Scott Frost, 9-3, Chad Pike, 9-2, Chris Futrell, 9-2, compatriot Santos Sambajon, 9-5 and Ray, 9-4, in that order.

Ray forced the rematch with Bustamante in the finals after posting a 9-4 victory over countryman Eric Moore in the one-loss side.

The victory, Bustamante's third this year, puts him at third in the current world money list with $30,272 total earnings, behind Efren "Bata" Reyes and Alex Pagulayan.

Bustamante, a native of Tarlac, Tarlac, also ruled the Weert Open 10-Ball Ring Game in the Netherlands in January and the All-Filipino Billiard Open in February.

Ray settled for the runner-up prize of $2,500. Moore, who won $2,000, and Sambajon ($1,500) filled out the top four spots.

Marlon Bernardino, contributor

Manila Para Games ties up with STI

THE PHILIPPINE Asean Para Games Organizing Committee and Systems Technology Institute will launch within two weeks the website for the 3rd Asean Para Games slated here on Dec. 14-21.

STI has tapped its top students as early as two weeks ago to design and set up the main home page. Vital data, including information about the 11 participating countries and sports in the Games' calendar, are already being encoded and will be ready for launch soon.

One of the pioneers in computer education in the country, STI will assist Papgoc in promoting the Games online, including the possible marketing of Asean Para Games official merchandise.

During the competitions, computers will be set up in different venues and the website staff will post news, games results and medal tallies, among others.

Details regarding the web hosting have yet to be finalized, but Papgoc chair Michael Barredo, who recently met with STI assistant vice president Mhel Garrido and events manager Rommel de Vera, is confident kinks will be ironed out soon since several web servers have indicated interest in providing online space for the Asean Para Games website.

"We are glad that we have come to terms with STI because a website will be a good vehicle for us to show the participating countries and the rest of the world the developments in the Philippines' preparation for the Asean Para Games and help promote sports for the differently-abled," said Barredo, who for the past week has been holding marathon meetings with Papgoc's various committees.

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Solon clinches 2 junior titles

DIPOLOG—Macy Solon of Dumaguete routed Sallydine Siso, 6-1, 6-1, to capture the girls' 16-under division before heavy rains shortened the rest of the championship matches in the 2005 Milo Junior Tennis Cup & Regional Workshop here at the Dipolog Country Club.

Solon became a double titlist following an 8-3 win over Kristel Buenacosa in the girls' 18-under class in the Milo netfest organized by CTW, supported by adidas and sanctioned by the Philta.

Cebu's Sallymae Siso also pocketed two titles in girls' play. She took the 12-under crown after demolishing Nina Ladera of Polanco, Zamboanga del Norte 8-2, and added the 14-under title with an 8-1 win over Gigi Helar of Zamboanga City.

SPORTSWATCH

Tagaytay hosts chess meets

TAGAYTAY City again plays host to the National Inter-Cities and Municipalities Chess Team Championships at the Tagaytay Sports Complex from Oct. 24 to 30. Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino expects more than 40 local government teams, headed by defending champion Muntinlupa City, to vie in the tournament organized by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines. Tagaytay will host the chess competitions of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games. The Inter-Cities and Municipalities meet forms part of national players' preparations for the SEA Games, said Tolentino. Tournament details can be obtained from NCFP project director Willy Abalos at 0921-6219898 or through the NCFP office at 435-1114. Tolentino's Tagaytay team, bannered by Grandmaster Joey Antonio and International Master Richard Bitoon, finished second in last year's edition of the tournament. A top prize of P100,000 will go to the winning team.

Makati daytime derby today

THE BLOCKBUSTER "Daytime 4-Cock Derby" offering P500,000 in guaranteed prize starts at noon today at the air-conditioned Makati Coliseum. The event, featuring 150 fights, will be hosted by Kags Paliza and Aba Badiola, who invited cockers and breeders from Pampanga, Pangasinan, Bulacan, Bicol, Rizal, Laguna, Cavite, Quezon and Negros Occidental. Call 896-3545, 895-6475 and 895-6453 for details. Up next is the "Pahabol Sa Taglugon 4-Cock Derby" on Aug. 8, with over 50 entries competing, according to host Bobbit Ples. Meanwhile, the newly organized Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP), now with 27 members, will hold its election of officers on Aug. 8. PCAP is based at the Makati Coliseum, said promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co of Winning Time Jobo Sports and Gaming Corp.

LPC 6-stag screening set

COCKERS and breeders who will join the annual Las Piñas 6-Stag Derby, slated Aug. 25 and 27 at the Las Piñas Coliseum, are requested to bring their stags at the LPC office for screening. Pit manager Alex Tobias said that stags, eight to 10 months old, must be presented every Saturday and Sunday, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. For details, call 873-1040 and 874-3910. To be hosted by former Mayor Nene Aguilar, the fund-raiser is for the benefit of Clean and Green project of Las Piñas City. Meanwhile, the second edition of "Pamigay Premyo 3-Cock Derby" unfolds on Saturday, Aug. 6. The champions will get two refrigerators. A bonus of P1,000 per win also await participants. The first 20 winners of the venue's regular hackfights from Monday to Friday will get a bonus of P1,000. Aficionados may win the prized Lemon Roundheads and Hulsey Lemons of Aguilar farms during the raffle.

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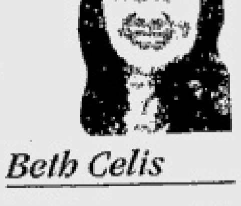


Beth Celis

NO ONE can accuse Shell governor Bobby Kanapi of not having exhausted all means to find a new home for the orphaned Turbo Chargers.

To start with, I know for a fact that he has done the rounds of companies that might be interested in taking over Shell's PBA franchise, working way down to zero hour.

The last week prior to the deadline imposed on the ballclub by the PBA board (for Shell to formally announce its plan for the franchise), Bobby K had been negotiating with two prospects.

Lance Gokongwei, whose father John once owned a PBA franchise (Great Taste), had begged off, leaving Bobby with only one last hope before the cutoff date: Harbour Centre.

Although owner Mikee Romero's timetable to join the PBA wasn't until after two more seasons in the PBL, he got excited when Bobby K presented his proposal. Mikee got so excited that he considered throwing the timetable he made in the trash can, to make that gigantic leap from the PBL to the PBA this year.

However, being the businessman that he is, he made a counterproposal to Bobby, in the hope of getting a better deal. After all, he was dropping everything, drastically changing his plans and budget for the Harbour Centre team, to accommodate the Shell franchise at a moment's notice.

Monday night, Bobby informed Mikee that the deal was off. The following day, hours before the PBA board meeting scheduled at noon at the San Miguel Corp. offices in Pasig, Bobby offered his players to any team that might be interested.

Meanwhile, Mikee was left with visions of what might have been.

However, these were muddled with mixed emotions. While his heart was prompting him to accept Bobby's offer, his mind was telling him not to be impulsive and wait for the right time.

***

After months of silence, former PBA referee Ogie Bernarte had something to say when I bumped into him at the Araneta Coliseum last week.

Ogie said the National Labor Relations Commission had just handed down its decision on the illegal dismissal case he and fellow referee Renato Guevarra had filed against the PBA.

"*Nanalo kami*. We are vindicated," he said.

According to Ogie's counsel lawyer Marcos Estrada, who was with him, the PBA has been ordered to reinstate the two referees within 30 days from the date of receipt of the decision and to pay their backwages from Jan. 1, 2004, amounting to P536,250 for Ogie and P211, P250 for Renato. The PBA was also assessed P150,000 for each referee, for moral and exemplary damages.

"What is significant in the resolution of this case is that one vital question regarding the status of the referees has been answered: Are they employees of the PBA? If so, are they regular or contract workers?"

"While referees have been made to sign annual contracts, the labor court has ruled that they are regular employees, entitled to benefits and privileges as such. The PBA is circumventing the law, leaving them without any security of tenure," said lawyer Estrada.

Ogie, who now officiates in the PBL, was chosen "Referee of the Year" by the PBA Press Corps in 2003. He is currently working for a masters degree in Physical Education and Sports at PUP.

***

The US-based player agent sounded very depressed over the phone. One of his clients, a popular cager who is joining the PBA draft this month, had wanted to cut his services despite an existing contract for another three years.

The agent said he was ready to sue the cager.

"Look, I've been spending pesos and dollars for this guy. I was the one who worked to get him to play for a UAAP team. I paid for his plane tickets to get to Manila, and I even loaned his parents money because their house in America was going to be foreclosed by the bank.

I have been taking care of him for almost five years, not getting a single centavo for my services, and now that "I'm on the verge of collecting my ROI, he drops me. *Walang utang na loob, talaga.*"

Oh well, what can I say?

Comments to celishuddle@yahoo.com

Martelino: Fiba has final say on cage row

DESPITE the creation of a new basketball body duly recognized by the Philippine Olympic Committee, the International Basketball Federation still has the final say in the current cage row in the country.

"*Lahat yan* Fiba calls," admitted Moying Martelino, president of the newly established Philippine Basketball Federation (PBF), during the weekly PSA Forum at the Pantalan Restaurant in Manila yesterday.

Martelino and PBF senior vice president Nic Jorge, who also guested in the session sponsored by Red Bull, Circure, Supermax, Pagcor and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, would rather not speculate on the decision of the world governing body for basketball regarding the controversy also involving the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

What they can assure is that the PBF will be presenting its case armed with the recognition and support imposed on them by the POC, the major basketball stakeholders in the country and hopefully, the Philippine Sports Commission.

"We're just waiting for the PSC to bestow its recognition on us," said Martelino. "I believe it will hold a meeting this afternoon (yesterday) and hopefully, *ma*-tackle *na `yung* PBF recognition. Once we get it, then we will forward our application to Fiba the soonest possible time."

The Fiba suspended the country from competing in international tournaments it sanctions following the dispute between the POC and the BAP, which the country's Olympic governing body expelled for reneging on an earlier agreement regarding the formation and training of the RP men's basketball team.

Although the Fiba is conducting its own investigation of the circumstances behind the expulsion, it made clear that it recognizes the BAP as the rightful cage body in the country.

MARTELINO

Martelino said he can't predict the time frame of the Fiba suspension, but hopes that it will be lifted just before the 23rd Philippine Southeast Asian Games slated Nov. 27-Dec. 5.

"It would be a pity if we won't have a basketball team in the SEA Games," he said.

The PBF has yet to appoint a secretary general, a key position within the organization. Neither has Martelino a list of probable candidates for the job.

"What we need is a person who knows the administrative works and has the knowledge on basketball," stressed Martelino.

Roddick trying to catch 'Tiger'

WASHINGTON—Andy Roddick is working his hardest to catch Roger Federer, but the American tennis star admits that finding the form to dethrone the Swiss world No. 1 at the US Open next month is still beyond him.

"Roger Federer has a physical and mental advantage over everybody," Roddick said. "He's doing to tennis what Tiger Woods did to golf a few years ago. He is making us all improve."

Roddick's quest to raise his game continues, after a week off, at the ATP Washington Classic here this week, where the 22-year-old is the top seed and Federer is absent.

Roddick joked about how to beat Federer at the US Open—"Punch him"—and said his chances to win the year's final Grand Slam event at New York in four weeks are "as good as anyone not named Roger."

Federer beat Roddick in the 2003 Wimbledon semifinals, the 2004 Wimbledon final and in last month's Wimbledon final, 6-2, 7-6 (2), 6-4. Roddick feels Federer is simply better and that he needs to improve.

"It's not an excuse. I'm not happy Roger is better than me. It's not a crutch," Roddick said. "I come out of that match saying, 'I played pretty well and got beat.' If anything, it makes me work harder.

"I'm doing everything I can to be the best player I can be. I'm working harder than I ever have."

At the same time, Roddick pondered yet another Wimbledon ouster at the hands of Federer and said, "If he's not around, who knows?" *AFP*

PGA golf parades strongest field ever

SPRINGFIELD, New Jersey—World No. 1 Tiger Woods and defending champion Vijay Singh of Fiji head the strongest field at any major championship this year when the 87th PGA Championship tees off next week.

The year's final Grand Slam tournament starts Aug. 11 at Baltusrol Golf Club and includes 97 of the world's 100 top-ranked golfers.

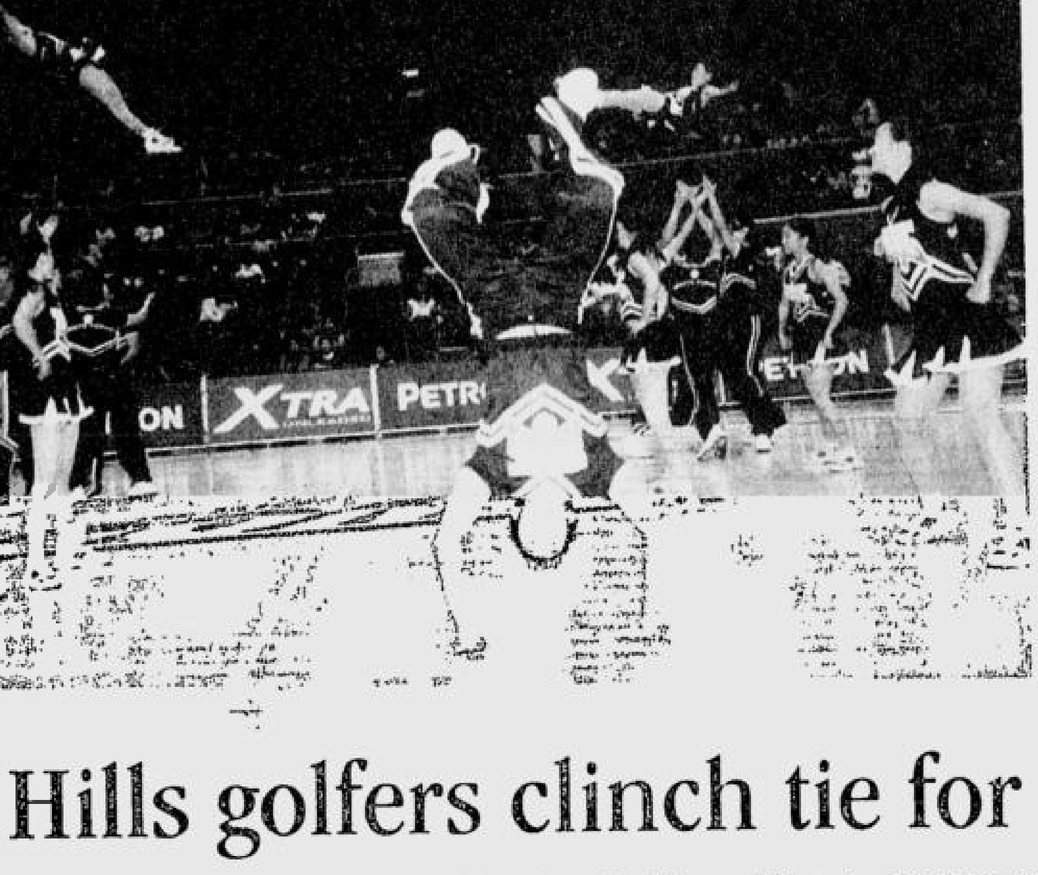
Since 1991 the event has had the most top-100 members of any major.

Woods won the Masters and British Open titles and finished second by two strokes to New Zealand's Michael Campbell at the US Open, denying Woods a chance to have claimed a Grand Slam sweep at this event.

A record 64 players from outside the United States representing a record 21 nations will compete for the Wanamaker Trophy.

Australians lead the non-US contingent with 15 players in the lineup.

There are 14 past PGA Championship winners and 31 major champions in the field of 156, which will be complete after Sunday's final round of the US PGA International. *AFP*



TIE-UP FOR FITNESS **The multititled, LA Gear-backed Salinggawi Dance Troupe perform their halftime number during the recent UST Tigers-La Salle Archers match at the Araneta Coliseum. The dance troupe keeps fit by joining cheerdance competitions outfitted by the "athleisure" LA Gear sports brand.**

Taekwondo tourney set

THE COUNTRY'S biggest taekwondo team event this year—the 28th Petron national championships—will be held on Aug. 6-7 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

According to Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert N. Aventajado, around 1,200 participants from various taekwondo chapters in 12 regions, ARMM, CAR and Metro Manila as well as the military and police services are expected to see action.

Competition will be conducted into novice and advanced groups with eight divisions under each category, namely, senior men and women, junior men and women, mid-junior men and women and grade school boys and girls.

Philippine Sports Commission chair William Ramirez, Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr., IOC representative to the Philippine Francisco J. Elizalde and other top NSA officials have been invited to grace the event sponsored by Petron, PSC, Accel, Milo, Samsung and 105.1 FM.

Forest Hills golfers clinch tie for playoff seat

Standings (win-draw-loss-points)

JW BLUE—Forest 5-1-0-12, Canlubang 2-2-2-8, Orchard 2-2-2-7, Eastridge 1-2-2-4, Mimosa 0-3-4-3.

JW GOLD—Southwoods 4-3-0-12, Alabang 3-3-1-10, Northwoods 3-2-1-9, Sherwood Hills 1-1-4-3, Highlands 0-1-5-1.

JW GREEN—Wack Wack 4-1-1-9, Riviera 3-1-2-8, Manila Golf 2-2-2-6, Valley 1-4-2-6, Sta. Elena 1-2-4-4.

FOREST Hills clinched at least a tie for the second slot in the Blue division after a 3-1 win over Orchard while Alabang upset defending champion Royal Northwoods in an away game over the weekend to tighten up the race in the Gold division of the 2005 Johnnie Walker Federation Golf League matches.

Peter Young-Ferdie Atendido prevailed in the foursomes, Bobby Ysip-Levi Marcelino won in high-low and Raffy Garcia-Bobby Chico took the aggregate match for the needed points that made up for the loss of Eding Hizon-Jong Laput in scramble as Forest Hills earned its fifth win and boost its total to 12 points going into the last two weeks of eliminations.

Forest went four points ahead of Canlubang, which earned a bonus point after sweeping Mimosa at home. It bumped off Orchard (7 points) for second place.

The big story of the week was Alabang's conquest of Royal Northwoods in the latter's home course in Bulacan.

Caloy Coscolluela-Tuan Nguyen (high-low) and Iggy Clavecilla-Ray Escuadro (scramble) delivered the crucial wins for Alabang which took a 2.5-1.5 decision with the draw earned by Vic Guzman-Francis Jimenez in the foursomes.

Alabang assumed second spot in the Gold division with 10 points in seven games, still two points off frontrunner Manila Southwoods but a point ahead of Northwoods.

Southwoods lost the first match (foursomes) via a 3 and 2 score, but by then its three other teams had decided the outcome with blowout wins.

Indren Naidoo-Sevi Liao finished the high-low duel on the 11th hole, Jeric Hechanova-Benjie Sarmiento got the aggregate job done on the 13th hole and Lito Abicra-Teody Pascual also settled the scramble issue on No. 13.

In the Green division, Riviera continued to creep into Wack Wack as it jumped into second spot after beating Sta. Elena.

Ray Sangil-Toto Velez, Eric Gozo-Danny Pizarro and Bobby Celestino-Ben Liclican hacked out wins for Riviera. It barely missed a sweep when Sta. Elena's Bones Floro-Bryan Cockrell won the aggregate duel on the last hole.

Wack Wack was held to a draw by Valley, giving the Antipolo golfers, now with 6 points like Manila Golf, a mathematical chance of contending for the second spot. Boni Sumbilla-Daudo Go and Honor Mendoza-Ryan Co won for Valley while Wack Wack got its points from Estong Lim-Mike Ozaeta and Vince Uy-John Gobing.

Archer Figueroa bags IOC award

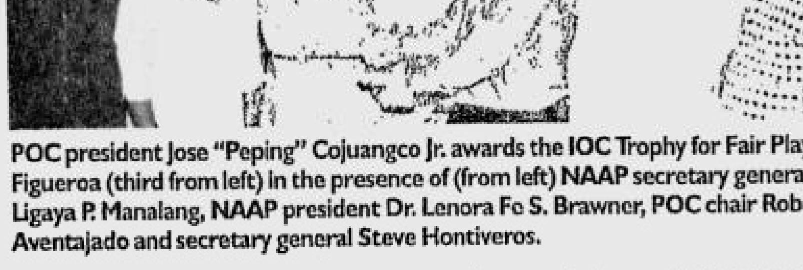
ARCHER Jasmin L. Figueroa, best remembered for her amazing performance in the Athens Olympics, has notched another achievement when she was awarded the IOC (International Olympic Committee) Sportsmanship and Fair Play Trophy.

The 20-year-old Figueroa, who ousted former world champion Natalie Valeeva of Italy in the first round of the Olympics archery competition, received her award recently during a meeting of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

"I'm proud and happy to receive this award," said Figueroa, a member of the national recurve team being supported by Customer Contact Center Inc.

Figueroa was recommended by the POC to the IOC to receive the award for her display of sportsmanship during the 2003 Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam. She was about to fire her arrow in a quarterfinal match against Indonesian Rina Dewi Puspita Sari when she was disturbed by a loud cheer from her rival's supporters.

As a result, she scored only six points, eventually losing the match by one point, 99-100, and the chance to vie for the gold medal. In the spirit of sportsmanship, she graciously accepted defeat.



POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. awards the IOC Trophy for Fair Play to Figueroa (third from left) in the presence of (from left) NAAP secretary general Ligaya P. Manalang, NAAP president Dr. Lenora Fe S. Brawner, POC chair Robert Aventajado and secretary general Steve Hontiveros.

RACING TIPS

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Rebecca's Magic 2. Bumpy Johnson 3. City Star 4. Red Storm
Race 2—1. Gutsy 2. Yoshiwara 3. Smiling Jaeda 4. Scarlet Beauty
Race 3—1. Beautiful Task 2. Habagat 3. Queen of Gala 4. Pasirit 5. Kusang Loob
Race 4—1. Silver Rose 2. Worthy Princess 3. Air Force One
Race 5—1. Gonfalon Story 2. Sovereign Dancer 3. I Miss You 4. Holy Smoke 5. Snow Princess 6. Longshot Tony
Race 6—1. Naida's Star 2. Rhapsody 3. Cashbook 4. Common Goal
Race 7—1. Nureyev Heiress 2. Iron Will 3. Calvin's Magic 4. Mr. Positive
Race 8—1. Pyramid Relaunch 2. Nitty Gritty 3. Carmelita 4. Do It David 5. Wine and Roses 6. Dazzling Affair

Ateneo's Santos strikes gold in Sabah meet

MICA SANTOS of Ateneo continued her winning ways in pole vault by bagging another gold medal in the 52nd Sabah Athletic Open Championship staged last July 23 and 24.

Santos, after clearing 3.2 meters for a new Philippine women's pole vault record in the Hong Kong Inter-Cities recently, did 3.0 m for the gold medal in Sabah.

Another Ateneo bet—Robert Sargan—bagged the men's pole vault gold medal with 3.7 m, while Blue Eagle Ryan Dalman clinched two silver medals in shotput (11.5 m) and discus throw (35.6 m).

The Ateneo-Philippines track and field team fielded only three athletes but was able to place sixth out of 13 teams.

UM foils STI bid; streak still alive

GAMES TOMORROW (*UM Gym*)
9 a.m.—Amacu vs BCSCMC (jrs)
10:30 a.m.—STI vs PLP (srs)
12 noon—CEU vs Umak (srs)
(*NEU Gym*)
4 p.m.—NEU vs Amacu (srs)

By Marc Anthony Reyes

UNIVERSITY of Manila put its record run on the line with a big gamble at the start of the game and turned to Ryan Regalado to preserve its streak with a 64-61 victory over a fighting STI squad yesterday in the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities basketball tournament at the UM gym.

The Hawks faced a nine-point deficit at the end of the first quarter and trailed by six midway through the third before Regalado checked in and skippered a 12-0 run that gave the Hawks a 48-42 spread, allowing UM to stretch its record winning streak to 77 games.

STI pounced on coach Ato Tolentino's decision to shuffle his on-court five constantly and keep his top gunners on the bench for extended periods to push the Hawks on the defensive, but the Olympians simply ran out of steam in the end and suffered their first defeat in three games.

Coached by Vic Ycasiano, the Olympians looked headed to a monumental upset when it took a 22-13 lead at the end of the first period, where they exploited the absence of the Hawks' main gunners from the floor as a result of Tolentino's experiment.

"This shows that league is becoming more mature as the teams grow in skills and character," said Naascu president Dr. Ernest Jay Adalem. "We are expecting so see more of this kind of games in the future as the teams are not anymore intimidated by UM's record win."

UM president lawyer Ernesto de los Reyes said the win was a wake-up call for the team: "Sooner or later somebody will come out to break that record. But we will try very hard to keep it running as long as we can."

Earlier, Centro Escolar crushed St. Clare, 99-34, in the women's division.

The scores:

First Game (*women's*)

CEU 99—Simmerman 16, Cabangon 11, Leano 11, Peralta 10, Nodalo 10, Hung 9, Aure 8, Casalla 5, Lagman 2, Zapata 2, Maimla 2, Manansala 2, De Claro 2, Bandoquillo 0.

ST. CLARE 34—Yanson 17, Gelacio 9, Roxas 4, Galedo 2, Lagmay 2, Rizardo 0, Vicencio 0, Severino 0, Talabero 0, Buatiz 0.

Quarters: 31-5, 51-20, 74-25, 99-34

Second Game (*seniors*)

UM 64—Bernados 16, Regalado 16, Santiago 12, Maliksi 8, Jamil 7, Litonjua 3, Napiza 2, Browly 0, Delostrinos 0, Bonus 0, Advincula 0.

STI 61—Micutuan 13, Wong 10, Nunez 9, Dia 7, Mabayo 5, Tapley 4, Botin 2, Belano 2, Martin 2, Legaspi 2, Lunar 2, Espiritu 2, Ebuengga 0.

Quarters: 13-22, 35-38, 55-48, 64-61.

"Drayton Bird knows more about direct marketing than anyone else in the world."
- DAVID OGILVY, advertising legend

DRAYTON BIRD
Direct Marketing Guru

5th DM/CRM Forum
presents

PROFITABLE DIRECT MARKETING:
How Direct Marketing can build your business!

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August 24, 2005 8:30am-5:30pm Makati Shangri-La Hotel

AM Sessions and Topics:
1. **Direct marketing and CRM strategy:** The simple, straightforward way to plan and build a strategy that works (and why many marketers focus on the wrong things)
2. **CRM: Why has so much failed – and how can you succeed?** 10 simple questions for CRM managers that will save you from a lot of misery
3. **Drawing up a DM Budget:** How much you should be willing to spend on marketing
4. **How to get lots more sales from your ads and mailings.** Avoiding the seven deadly sins of direct marketing
5. **Building response and brands:** How Direct Marketing and CRM works – and how it can build your brands
6. **Creating compelling, sticky creatives that deliver response and results:**
a. How to interrogate your product or service and tease out what sets you apart from your competitors
b. How to "climb inside" prospects' minds and understand what's most likely to make them act
c. How to plan and brief so your messages are far more likely to work
d. Plus, FAQs like the following are answered:
- How do incentives work – and which work best?
- When, what gimmicks work?
7. **Benchmarking:**
a. How to distinguish between good and bad work
b. What works in finance and why so much financial creative fails

PM Sessions and Topics:
1. **Design and Copy:** How design and layout can help – or kill – response
a. How to write so people want to start reading - and keep reading so eagerly they can't wait to reply
b. The thing that's more important than a USP – and how to find it for your business
c. FAQs answered, like:
- What should go inside an envelope?
- How long should copy be?
- How many pieces should a mailing have?
2. **Choosing the right media – internet, email, tv, direct mail, radio, print?:** Proven formulae and techniques that work in all media, on-line and off, print and broadcast.
3. **Bonus tip:** What's missing from 90% of messages; plus more of your FAQs are answered:
- How do you get new ideas?
- Which parts of a layout people look at?
- How do you convince people you really are good?
4. **Business to Business DM:** What you have to adapt for business-to-business
5. **CRM** – One last word. What you really need to know about it.
6. A check-list for direct marketing and advertising success you can use every day

Plus! Panel discussion with the best, award-winning Philippine DM practitioners and gurus. Keep up to date on what's happening in the Philippine DM scene with case studies, examples and discussions/clarifications on Mr Bird's lessons.

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- LEONIDES LOARES, CRM Mgr., Syngenta

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Spring

For more information, please call 8302191, 8132732/03 and ask for Jenny, Fina, Gina or Ardy; or e-mail us at ACTS@inspire.ph or DMFORUM@inspire.ph to book your seats!

08-03-05

ATTENTION SHOPPINGERAS!
THIS AUGUST, JUST SHOP, ISSUES A CODE RED
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FORWARD MARCH...
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JUST SHOP
Valerie Bariou
SHOPPINGERA
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Red Hot Looks From Juan Sarte
BEST BARGAINS EVER! Binondo's Newest Mall
Amna Aranaz Shops For Budget Baubles
& Makeup BENJIE ANGELES of Traffic Salon

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EVENTS SCHEDULES PROMOS
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Johnny Depp
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Get a FREE limited edition Charlie and the Chocolate Factory sticker pad for every purchase of 4 Charlie and Chocolate Factory movie tickets on the first screening day of Charlie and Chocolate Factory at the SM Cinema or The Podium Cinema nearest you.

Be there as EPSON takes photographs of kids beside the whole Charlie and Chocolate Factory gang for FREE at the cinema lobby of SM City North Edsa on August 6 and 7 and SM Megamall on August 12 and 14

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2 nights to go!

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August 6, 2005
Saturday • 8:30 pm
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the podium 633-8976
1 CRASH 01:00FS/01:35MF/04:00/06:25 08:15LFS/09:00LMF/10:50END
2 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY 11:30FS/12:00MF/02:30/05:00 07:00LFS/07:30LMF/09:25END
cebu (032) 231-3876
1 MONSTER-IN-LAW 12:00FS/12:10MF/02:02/03:54/05:46/07:38 09:23LFS/09:30LMF/11:15END
2 THE ISLAND 12:00FS/12:10MF/02:30/04:50/07:10 09:25LFS/09:30LMF/11:45END
3 STEALTH 12:00FS/12:10MF/02:30/04:50/07:10 09:10LFS/09:30LFS/11:30END

METRO MANILA
SM MEGAMALL
1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 STEALTH
5 ARAHAN
6 THE ISLAND
7 YEAR OF THE YAO
8 CRASH
9 D' ANOTHERS
10 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
11 WEDDING CRASHERS
12 THE EYE INFINITY

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 IF ONLY
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
3 WEDDING CRASHERS
4 THE ISLAND
5 D' ANOTHERS
6 CRASH
7 STEALTH
8 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
9 THE EYE INFINITY
10 FANTASTIC FOUR
11 YEAR OF THE YAO
12 ARAHAN

SM NORTH EDSA
1 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 THE EYE INFINITY
3 ICE PRINCESS
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 YEAR OF THE YAO
6 ARAHAN
7 CRASH
8 STEALTH

SM CITY MANILA
1 CRASH
2 STEALTH
3 YEAR OF THE YAO
4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
5 THE ISLAND
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 ARAHAN
8 IF ONLY
9 D' ANOTHERS
10 THE MACHINIST
11 WEDDING CRASHERS
12 THE EYE INFINITY

SM CITY STA MESA
1 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 YEAR OF THE YAO
3 STEALTH
4 CRASH
5 D' ANOTHERS
6 THE EYE INFINITY
7 WEDDING CRASHERS
8 FANTASTIC FOUR
9 THE ISLAND
10 ARAHAN

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 WEDDING CRASHERS
3 THE MACHINIST
4 STEALTH
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 WEDDING CRASHERS
7 ARAHAN
8 THE ISLAND
9 YEAR OF THE YAO
10 THE EYE INFINITY

SM SAN LAZARO
1 YEAR OF THE YAO
2 STEALTH
3 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 THE EYE INFINITY
5 ARAHAN
6 D' ANOTHERS

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 STEALTH
4 THE ISLAND

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 THE ISLAND
4 STEALTH

LUZON
SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 STEALTH
2 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
3 THE ISLAND
4 IF ONLY
5 THE MACHINIST
6 D' ANOTHERS

SM CITY BACOOR
1 THE MACHINIST
2 WEDDING CRASHERS
3 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 THE ISLAND
5 STEALTH
6 D' ANOTHERS
7 THE EYE INFINITY
8 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 THE MACHINIST
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 IF ONLY
4 STEALTH

SM CITY LUCENA
1 NEW POLICE STORY
2 CREEP
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 THE JACKET

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 SIN CITY
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
4 NEW POLICE STORY

SM CITY MARILAO
1 MONSTER-IN-LAW
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 THE MACHINIST
4 STEALTH

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
4 NEW POLICE STORY

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO
SM CITY CEBU
1 MONSTER-IN-LAW
2 THE ISLAND
3 STEALTH
4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
5 PREMONITION
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 D' ANOTHERS
8 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR

SM CITY ILOILO
1 IF ONLY
2 RESERVED
3 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 NEW POLICE STORY
6 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
7 RESERVED
8 THE ISLAND

SM CITY DAVAO
1 STEALTH
2 IF ONLY
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
5 HERBIE: FULLY LAODED
6 THE ISLAND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 CREEP
2 NEW POLCIE STORY
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 IF ONLY

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crash
10
ARAHAN
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The Search for the Ms. Ice Princess is on!

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MTRCB RATING ▷ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
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The most controversial erotic thriller of the year...
In 1936 Shanghai, the whole world ran on power, money and sex...

Shanghai Lily
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the desire...
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1 CRASH PLEASE CALL FOR SCREENING TIME R-13
2 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY 11:05, 2:30, 5:20 8:10, 11:00 GP
3 WEDDING CRASHERS PLEASE CALL FOR SCREENING TIME PG-13
4 STEALTH 12:30, 3:10, 5:50 8:30, 11:00 PG-13

POWER PLANT CINEMA
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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

CRASH R13 12:20,2:40,5:00,7:20,9:40	CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY GP 12:20,2:40,5:00,7:20,9:40	CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY GP 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:1
WEDDING CRASHERS PG13 12:35,3:05,5:35, 8:05,10:30	THE ISLAND PG13 12:55,4:00,7:00,10:00	STEALTH PG13 12:35,3:05,5:35, 8:05,10:30

Disbarged lawyers and other boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: How long do you think your concert will last—until morning?

Guest: It's hard to say, but we hope it will last late due to the many participation!

(*Ano daw?!*)

* * *

Host: What have you done to improve your figure?

Guest: Well, I admit, I had liposection.

(One man's liposuction is another man's liposection...)

* * *

Host: Where would you like to travel—what country? What place?

Guest: I am intrigued about going to Mongolia.

Host: Really? What is it that fascinates you about Mongolia? The Mongoloids?

(Don't answer that question—please!)

* * *

Host: What will happen to the lawyer if it is proven that he faked the evidence in this case?

Guest: If the proof is strong and the motive to fool the court can be clearly established, he could be disbarged!

(That's right, throw that dishonest lawyer off the barge!)

* * *

Host: Who are the leaders of your organization—do you know them?

Guest: Yes, but unfortunately, right now, those which are, I cannot call the names!

(Your English is Greek to us!)

* * *

Host: Did you like that old video we just played? That feature was on a great guitarist from way back, he was a steady of Frank Sinatra!

(Frank Sinatra went steady with a male guitarist—?!)

* * *

Host: Your US tour is pushing through?

Guest: Yes, so Fil-Ams in the States, watch out, the biggest singing stars from here will be gracing their fans from there next month!

(Gracing their fans? From here, from there?—Wheee!)

* * *

Host: What is your group against?

Guest: We condone the habitual, kneejerk removal of presidents!

(Condone? You mean *condemn*, don't you?)

* * *

Host: What's the latest on the storm—is it clearing up?

Guest: Its strength is lessening, but there are outlying areas that are still feeling the effects of the reminants of the typhoon.

(Ay, reminants!)

* * *

Host: What do you want to say to corrupt government officials?

Guest: There's still time to change, to reform, to be molarly upright!

(We're all for upright molars!)

* * *

Host: How did your conference last week go?

Guest: Oh, it was successful—it was very good attended!

(Very good attended *daw, o!*)

* * *

Host: Are you ready for the rally? Are all preventive measures in place?

Guest: Yes, we believe so.

Host: What specific preventive security measures will you be barking on?

(Woof, woof!)

'CSI Miami'

AXN telecasts Season Three of "CSi Miami" every Wednesday starting Aug. 3 at 10 p.m., with replays on Thursday at 3 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m. and 11 p.m., and Monday at 4 a.m.

Horatio Caine (**David Caruso**), a former homicide detective, heads a group of investigators that includes DNA specialist Megan Donner (**Kim Delaney**), a bilingual Southern beauty with a specialty in ballistics (Calleigh Duguesne, played by **Emily Procter**); Tim Speedle (**Rory Cochrane**), a cocky charmer; Erik Delco (**Adam Rodriguez**), and underwater recovery expert; Alexx Woods (**Khandi Alexander**), the no-nonsense, know-it-all coroner; and former patrolman Ryan Wolfe (**Jonathan Togo**).

In the season's first episode, the CSIs discover a sinister murder aboard a yacht that's crashed: a body is recovered, but it has a bullet hole in its head. They follow a trail of clues from the scene to the dead man's wife, who reveals a complex plot involving high-quality fake jewelry and the elaborate kidnapping of their son.

Inching closer to solving the murder, Caine and Speedle are caught in an unexpected shootout at a jewelry store, and Speedle gets fatally shot. Fusions with grief, the CSIs suddenly find themselves racing against time when the last remaining link to the missing boy disappears.

Campaign for Real Beauty

DOVE and the Women's Media Circle launch "Campaign for Real Beauty," an initiative to listen to what women throughout the world think, at 10:30 a.m. today at The Loft, Rockwell, Makati City, with a debate on real beauty.

Discussants include **Gloria Diaz, Patricia Evangelista, Nicole Fonacier**, and media and beauty industry leaders. The moderator is **Boy Abunda.**

SHOW TIME

23 years with Martin

MARTIN Nievera looks back on his 23 years in show business with a concert series at SM Live in Megamall on Friday, and North Edsa on Saturday. Aside from this concert, Martin is currently promoting his latest album, "When Love Is Gone" under EMI Music Philippines, where he sings duets with friends Brian McNight ("Sorry Song"), Zsa Zsa Padilla ("Separate Lives") and Ima Castro ("I Don't Want You To Go"), plus other songs "for the broken-hearted." For tickets to this week's show, call 891-5610 or 891-9999 and 551-7777.

Nonoy's 'Love Concert'

NONOY Zuñiga stars in "The Love Concert" at the Music Museum in Greenhills Friday and Saturday. The Viva Concerts production will feature songs from Nonoy's "The Love Album," a collection of old favorites. Tickets at P1,500 and P900. Call 891-9999.

Today

Cool Change at **Bykes Café**, Makati City. Call 750-0622.

"Follies de Mwah!" at **Club Mwah!**. Call 535-7943.

Tomorrow

Jeffrey Hidalgo at **Metro Comedy Concert Bar** along West Avenue, Quezon City

"Follies de Mwah!" at **Club Mwah!**. Call 535-7943.

Rhythm and Blue at **Bykes Café**, Makati City. Call 750-0622.

K and the Boxers at **Ratsky Malate**

August 5

"The Love Concert" with **Nonoy Zuñiga** at the **Music Museum**. Call 891-9999.

Kuh Ledesma and **Zsa Zsa Padilla** together in "Diva 2 Diva" at the **Captain's Bar**, Mandarin Oriental. Call 721-0635.

K and the Boxers at **Ratsky Morato**

"Spectaculo," a dinner, magic, dance and full production show at **Club Mwah!** starting at 7 p.m. Call 535-7943.

"Once On This Island," the repeat at the **RCBC Theater**. Call 891-9999.

Latin Fridays at the **Gateway Mall** with **Cadio, Guarana** and **UPJLE** with **Skarlet**.

Onda Latina at **Bykes Café**, Makati City. Call 750-0622.

August 6

Nonoy Zuñiga at the **Music Museum**. Call 891-9999.

"Spectaculo," a dinner, magic, dance and full production show at **Club Mwah!** starting at 7 p.m. Call 535-7943.

Kuh Ledesma and **Zsa Zsa Padilla** together in "Diva 2 Diva" at the **Captain's Bar**, Mandarin Oriental. Call 721-0635.

"Once On This Island," the repeat at the **RCBC Theater**. Call 891-9999.

NONOY Zuñiga

Be a judge in 'Rockstar'

HERE'S how to vote for your favorite contender in Star World's "Rockstar: INXS," whose finalists include Fil-Aussie Mig Ayesa.

The all-new reality TV show is a search for the next frontman of the Australian band INXS.

Today and every Wednesday, Philippine viewers can make their voices heard. Voting is from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., right after the live performance at 9:30 a.m. (replay at 8:50 p.m.).

Results show is Thursday at 9 a.m. (replay at 9 p.m.).

To vote, key in your favorite's code (INXS 01 or INXS 02 ...) and send to 283 (Smart) or 2800 (Globe). Finalist codes are announced on the live performance episodes. A confirmation message will be sent upon receipt of the SMS.

To retrieve the code of the finalist you are voting for, key in INXS CODE and send to 283 (Smart) or 2800 (Globe).

Each SMS costs P2.50. Log on to www.startv.com/rockstar for details.

Amazzzzzzzzzzing !!!!!!

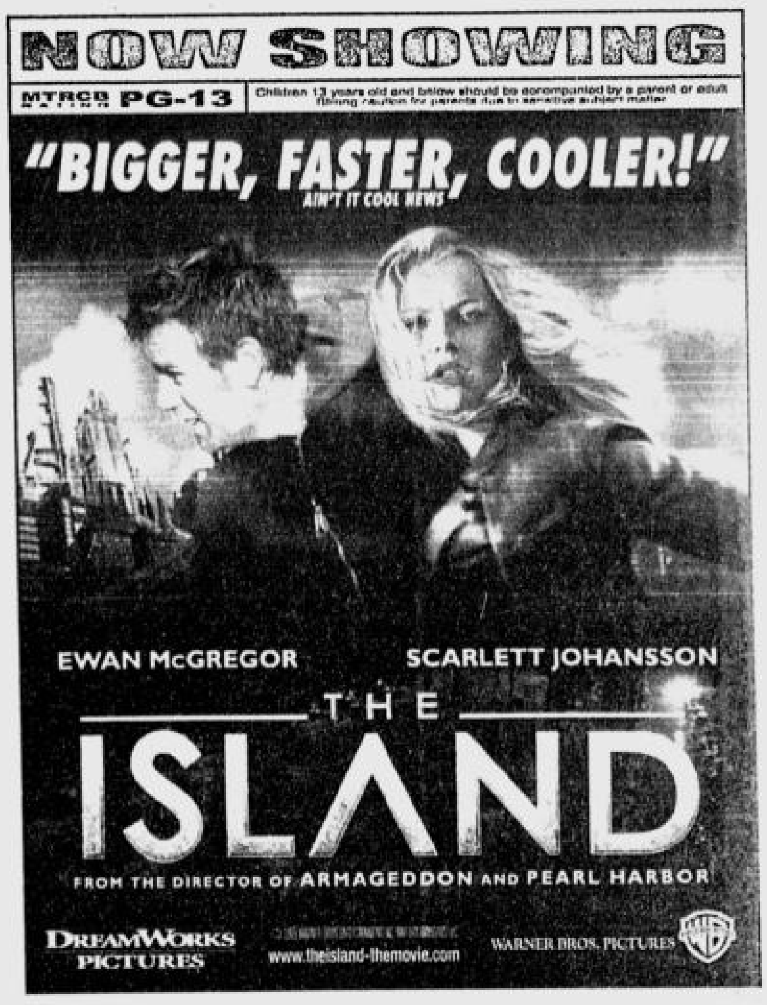
HITTING THE #1 SPOT IN ITS THIRD WEEK OF RELEASE

NEWS HOLLYWOOD (AP) - After waiting patiently in second place for two weeks, grooms *Owen Wilson* and *Vince Vaughn* stepped up into **first** place this weekend as moviegoers made their blockbuster comedy **Wedding Crashers** the most popular film in North America.

This is the first time in Hollywood film history that a hit film ascend to the head of the chart in its third weekend of release.

The **WEDDING CRASHER** grossed an estimated $20.5M to lead the box office. Off a slender 20%, the New Line sleeper hit has grossed an astonishing $116M in only 17 days. The good "word-of-mouth" smash dropped just 24% last weekend and should smash through the $175M mark at this pace. The double century mark is not out of the question either.

ADVT.



NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children 13 years old and below should be accompanied by a parent or adult. Strong caution for parents due to sensitive subject matter
"BIGGER, FASTER, COOLER!" AIN'T IT COOL NEWS
EWAN McGREGOR SCARLETT JOHANSSON
THE ISLAND
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ARMAGEDDON AND PEARL HARBOR
DREAMWORKS PICTURES www.theisland-themovie.com WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Araneta Center Leisure Guide

Enter The Factory TODAY!

Now Showing At

Gateway Cineplex 10 & Ali Mall Cinemas

CINEMA SCHEDULES

Gateway Cineplex 10 LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL
ONLY P99 ADMISSION
P120 RESERVED SEATS
P140 THE ISLAND, STEALTH & CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

	GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY 1:45 / 4:10 STEALTH 6:35 / 9:00
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY 12:00 / 2:25 / 4:50 / 7:15 / 9:40	
YEAR OF THE YAO 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30	D' ANOTHERS 12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30
CRASH 12:20 / 2:35 / 4:50 / 7:05 / 9:20	IF ONLY 1:45 / 4:10 / 6:35 / 9:00
EYE INFINITY 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00	WEDDING CRASHERS 12:50 / 3:40 / 6:30 / 9:20
STEALTH 2:10 / 4:40 / 7:10 / 9:40	THE ISLAND 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30

ALI MALL CINEMAS

❶ D' ANOTHERS 11:25 / 1:40 / 3:55 / 6:10 / 8:25	❹ ARAHAN
❷ YEAR OF THE YAO 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30	❺ STEALTH 12:35 / 3:05 / 5:35 / 8:05
❸ CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY 12:50 / 3:15 / 5:40 / 8:05	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS

Aug. 4 UP vs Adu Jrs 10am UE vs ADMU Jrs 12nn Thursday UP vs Adu Srs 2pm UE vs ADMU Srs 4pm	UAAP - NCAA ALL STAR GAMES August 13, Saturday
MTV PILIPINAS 2005 August 26, Thursday 8 pm	CUSA BASKETBALL LEAGUE August 26, Friday OPENING GAMES

CENTER EVENTS

PROMOS

Araneta Center Hoopla raffle promo ongoing until October 14. Watch a game at the Coliseum + Buy a Sim Pack + Shop at Araneta Center for a chance to win trips to Singapore, Thailand, Cebu, Bohol, Boracay, Palawan & Puerto Galera! Plus 10 Nokia cellphones and 25 iPods!

Araneta Center & LRT 2 Ride & Dine promo ongoing until October 19. Buy an LRT stored value card & get P350 worth of FREE food items at the Gateway Food Express!

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MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

OPM artists rule RP Tower Records' July charts

SPIN CITY

OPM (Original Pilipino Music) dominated the Tower Records (Philippines) July music charts.

Occupying a prime post in the store's latest countdown is Hale, whose self-titled album under EMI Music has been on the list for 12 weeks.

EMI scored three other hits in the Tower charts—Bamboo's "Light Peace Love," Coldplay's "X &Y" and "The Chillout Project Presents Acid Jazz," a collection of acid jazz tracks compiled by Anton Ramos.

Still a huge seller is "Nina Live" under Warner Music Philippines. The CD has been in the charts for 21 weeks, in the top slot for several months. It recently turned 4x platinum, an unprecedented feat in the OPM industry. Other local Warner artists in the Top 10 are Kitchie Nadal and Christian Bautista.

Vicor Music's MYMP is in the Top 3 with "Versions & Beyond." The group's "Beyond Acoustic" is also in the Top 25.

Three more OPM artists in the Top 25 are Universal Records' Orange & Lemons, BMG Pilipinas' Cueshe, and Candid Records' Mishka Adams.

Meanwhile, the best-selling videos are "Constantine," "Miss Congeniality 2" and "A Very Long Engagement"—all from Warner Home Video—followed by Magnavision's "War Of The Worlds," "Hitch" and "Spongebob Squarepants The Movie."

Not far behind is Viva Video's "Imelda," a biography of the former First Lady Imelda R. Marcos.

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PROUD TO BE A FILIPINO

CAPTAIN JUAN PAJOTA

While **Capt. Robert Prince** was the brains and **Lt. Col. Henry Mucci** the sheer force behind the Cabanatuan rescue mission, it was USAFFE guerrilla leader **Capt. Juan Pajota** who was able to bring the rescue plan to reality. **Capt. Pajota** knew the land, had the trust of local villagers and commanded the local guerrilla forces. He prevailed upon villagers to muzzle their barking dogs the night of the raid; he came up with the clever idea of evacuating the weak and feeble prisoners on water buffalo carts; and he and his men held Japanese forces off at a bridge while the Rangers and POWs made their historic trek back to safety.

Resourceful, Organized, Imaginative

By all accounts he was a natural leader and a brilliant tactician. **Robert Lapham**, the American USAFFE guerrilla leader, called him "a very unflamboyant guy with a natural bent for leadership. He was resourceful, organized and extremely imaginative."

"Suicide"

Pajota had the one thing **Lt. Col. Mucci** lacked: information. He had intelligence on the Japanese movements within and around the camp. At their first meeting, **Mucci** was impatient; his men were ready, he wanted to move. **Pajota** was unflappable. Learning that **Mucci** was determined to stage the raid that very evening, **Pajota** clearly and simply informed **Mucci**, "Sir, with all due respect, that is suicide." **Pajota** explained that the Japanese would have large numbers of troops and trucks on the roads that evening. At first, **Mucci** was undeterred. However, upon receiving similar intelligence from his own Alamo Scouts, **Mucci** was forced to concur with **Pajota**. He delayed the raid 24 hours.

A Perfect Plan

In the planning stages, **Pajota** offered **Mucci** a novel tactical strategy -- one that would give the raid an element of surprise and cover at the same time. **Pajota** suggested using airplanes to fly over the camp and distract the Japanese guards moments before the raid. **Mucci** instantly liked the sound of it. The aircraft would just be up there, looping and droning and turning, flummoxing the guards, commanding attention. The plan worked to perfection. The planes provided cover for the Rangers as they made their way into position near the camp gates.

Cesar Montano as Capt. Juan Pajota

The Real Capt. Juan Pajota

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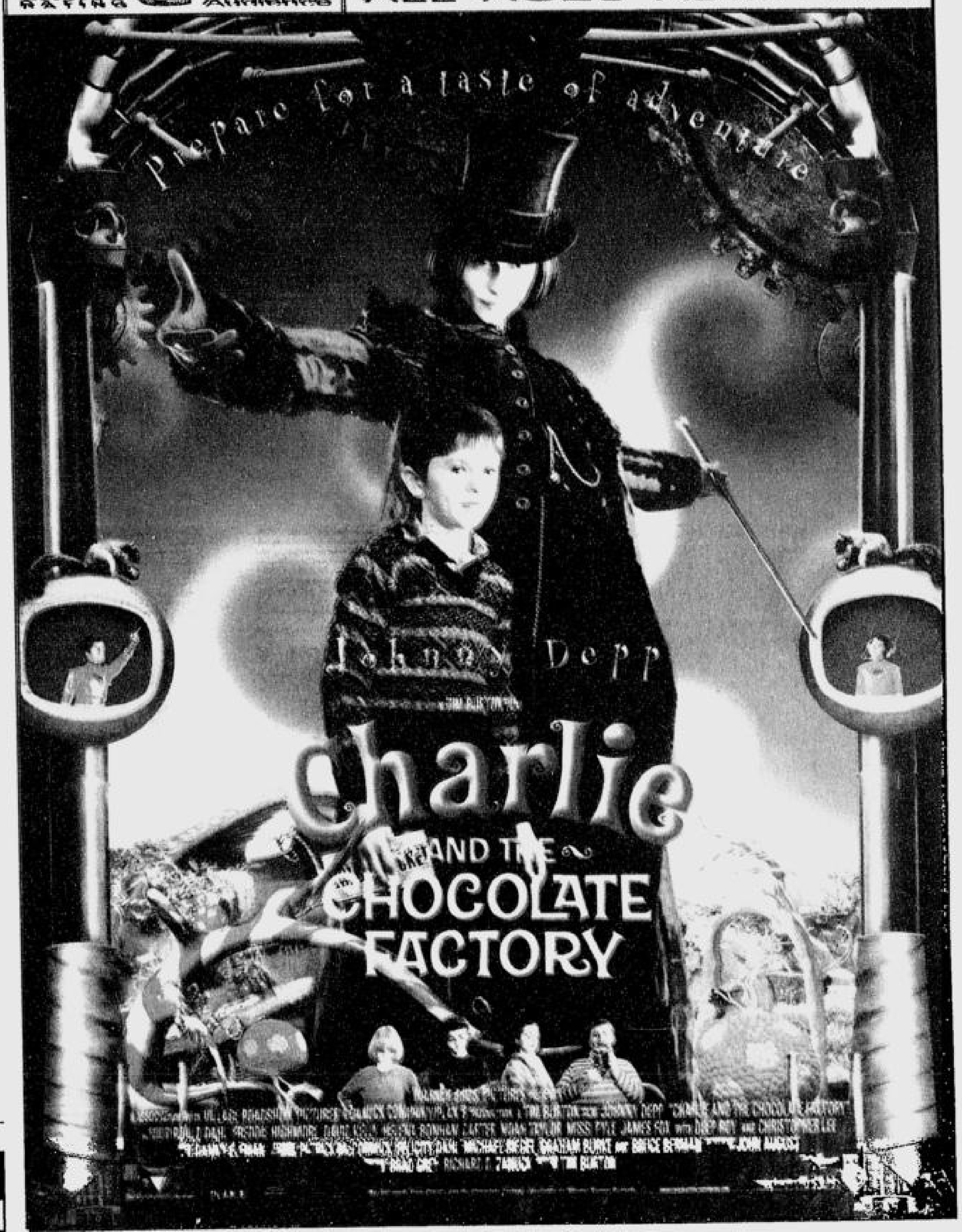
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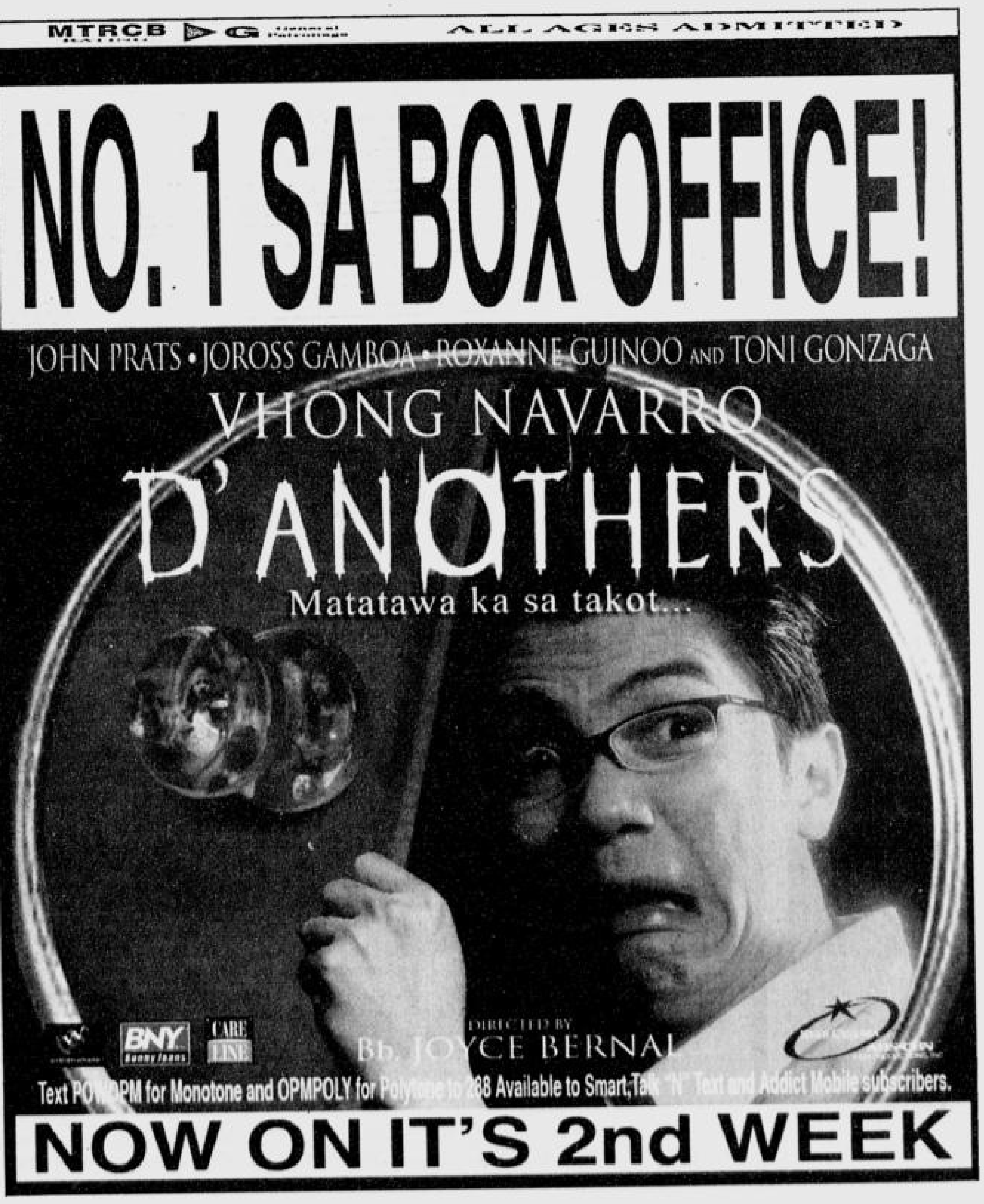
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OPENING TODAY

Crash

Directed by: Paul Haggis
Stars Sandra Bullock, Ryan Phillippe, Matt Dillon, Brendan Fraser

Eleanor Ringel Gillespie wrote this review in The Atlanta Journal-Constitution: "The collisions in 'Crash' aren't always a matter of metal and glass. People collide as well in this literate, engrossing and occasionally funny look at race relations in Los Angeles... If this sounds like a lot of plot exposition, rest assured this isn't even the half of it. Making his directorial debut, writer Paul Haggis ('Million Dollar Baby') masterfully crafts a picture that's both grave and amusing as it examines the many faces of racial hate in L.A.—and, by extension, the rest of the country. His point is, racism is a given in America of 2005... Near the end, 'Crash' feels a bit forced, a bit preachy. But it's never glib or self-important. And there's a wonderful moment of capricious grace that ends the movie on a note of optimism. And yes, there actually are some car crashes. The movie begins and ends with wrecks, as if to signify, another day, another crash. Same old, same old, Haggis is telling us, but in a new, distinctive and welcome voice."

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Directed by Tim Burton
Stars Johnny Depp, Freddie Highmore, Helena Bonham Carter

Roger Ebert, in his July 15 review in the Chicago-Sun Times, wrote: "Tim Burton is cheerfully inventive in imagining the city and the factory, and the film's production design, by Alex McDowell, is a wonder. David Kelly, as Grandpa Joe, is a lovable geezer who agrees to accompany Charlie to the factory ... And young Freddie Highmore, who was so good opposite [Johnny] Depp in 'Finding Neverland,' is hopeful and brave and always convincing as Charlie. The problem is that this time, he finds Neverland. Johnny Depp may deny that he had Michael Jackson in mind when he created the look and feel of Willy Wonka, but moviegoers trust their eyes, and when they see Willy opening the doors of the factory to welcome the five little winners, they will be relieved that the kids brought along adult guardians."

The Eye... Infinity

Directed by Pang Brothers
Stars Chen Po Lin, Isabella Leong, Kate Yeung

Grady Hendrix wrote this March 31 review for kaijushakedown.com, Variety's Asian film blog: "The latest horror effort from the spookily identical Pang Brothers is not garnering any online hype or reviews for a simple reason: It's not very good. 'Eye 10 (or Eye Infinity)' as the directors have ominously named it) is one of those 'callow Hong Kong teenagers go to Thailand on vacation, encounter ghosts, return to Hong Kong deader and wiser, try to get rid of ghosts, die in twist-ending' movies. There's a great sequence in an underground pedestrian walkway, and a nice segment with some hungry ghosts, but overall, it's a disjointed messy film that zings out dozens of vignettes with only one or two cool ideas among them, sort of like a batch of chocolate chip cookies featuring only three chocolate chips. It's a jokey, disappointing closer to the 'Eye' trilogy, that was always a little half-baked to begin with."

OPENING/ A22

'Charlie' is a sugar high

Tim Burton and Johnny Depp concoct a candy-coated treat with a lesson in the middle

By Ruel S. De Vera

REVIEW

ROLLING out a pun like "eye candy" to describe a movie like Tim Burton's "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" may be a bit too sweet but it really is irresistible (oh dear, here we go again). That's because Burton's take on the venerated Roald Dahl children's book is a true Candy Corner and Sweet Factory of a movie, all bright colors and swirling shapes. It's like what would happen if you made a 64-piece Crayola set edible. The Factory's scenery alone is worth the trip to see this cinematic confection. But there's more inside "Charlie's" candy-coated center.

Eerily still

"Charlie" is Charlie Bucket (Freddie Highmore of "Finding Neverland"), a kind, impoverished boy with good intentions and big dreams. When the mysterious candy maker Willy Wonka (Johnny Depp) announces that five golden tickets have been hidden in his chocolate bars so that five lucky children will be able to visit Wonka's factory, Charlie gets his wish, bringing his Grampa Joe (David Kelley) along. But the famed Chocolate Factory and its owner are nothing quite like what they expected.

Eerily still with his gloves, top hat, frozen grin and stilted speech pattern, Depp's Wonka is a twisted, childlike ringmaster, operating on the opposite end of the acting lollipop stick from Depp's takes on foppish Captain Sparrow and bizarre Edward Scissorhands. He is the caramel-dipped, kewpie-doll-faced mystery behind everything, a delightful and slightly creepy figure at the same time. Depp's double-fudge performance is "Charlie's" crackerjack prize.

While Depp may be the movie's sweet tooth, Charlie is its heart, with Highmore delivering a powerfully understated performance. His Charlie Bucket is a deeply thoughtful, naturally good kid. Also giving noteworthy turns are the film's brat pack: Philip Wiegratz as Augustus Gloop, Julia Winter as Veruca Salt, AnnaSophia Rob as Violet Beauregarde, and Jordan Fry as Mike Teavee.

Utterly stealing the show are the Oompa-Loompas, as actor Deep Roy doubles, triples and more as the diminutive workers. Burton uses the CGI-powered Oompas together with Danny Elfman's ingenious songs in intentionally over-the-top numbers recalling old movie musicals. In fact, Burton, Elfman, Depp and production designer Alex McDowell combine with zany abandon to create a gonzo morality tale about family, generosity and a ton of candy.

DEPP's Wonka is a twisted, childlike ringmaster

Taste test

Burton has a grand old time bringing Dahl's book (as adapted for the screen by John August) to life, staying close to the original book for most of the package. Melt-in-the-mouth pop culture references abound with nods to Burton's own "Edward Scissorhands," Hitchcock's "Psycho" and Kubrick's "2001: A Space Odyssey," among others.

Inevitably, this "Charlie" will face a taste test with Mel Stuart's 1971 adaptation, "Willy Wonka & The Chocolate Factory," a psychedelic that is similarly disturbing and fun with a more wizened Wonka in Gene Wilder. The newer "Charlie" has a more visual flavor and greater richness. Frequent Burton collaborator Elfman's wink-wink music, though good, lacks the catchy winsomeness of Anthony Newley's songs in "Willy." If "Charlie" has one cavity, it's the sugar-free back story of Charlie's troubled relationship with his father, dentist Wilbur Wonka (the grave great Christopher Lee, adding Wilbur to Count Dooku and Saruman on his portfolio of resurgence), which feels unnecessary and a bit obvious.

But "Charlie" does the trick for both young viewers and adults, for a variety of reasons as well. Harking to the realm of imaginary friends and secret wishes, the world of Willy Wonka, with its edible flora and milky rivers, is an exploration through character and childhood, about the value of values amid abundance and temptation. Tim Burton's dizzying "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" is all that, as well as a celebration of moviemaking's treats, a sweet trip in characteristic Burton fashion. Yummy.

Warner Bros.' "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" is now showing in Metro Manila theaters.

Vegas party gal hosts ABC's 'Club TV'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

TAKE FIVE

SHE has been described variously as a youthful Vicky Morales crossed with Viktoria.

On screen, Vegas import Laura Jean possesses the chatty nature of the former and the vamp-rocker ways of the latter.

Off screen, she's 100 percent her own woman and a self-confessed party gal.

Born in Long Beach and raised in Las Vegas, she puts her babe factor to good use on the new ABC party show "Club_TV" (Saturday, 8 p.m.), which is produced by manager-mentor Geleen Eugenio.

Crowned Miss Fiesta Filipina Nevada last year, Laura Jean is being groomed as ABC's "party gal" *du jour*.

Is Las Vegas as sinful as that city on "CSI"?

That show scares me! But, in reality, Vegas is not that bad. Although I must admit the city has some sinful parts.

How does the "Club_TV" set measure up to a real Vegas club?

It's weird. Sometimes, while we're taping the show at 10 p.m., I forget that I'm in a TV studio. I often make the mistake that I'm in an actual club, watching the bands and the dancers perform.

MISS Fiesta Filipina Nevada 2004

What's the wackiest and weirdest party you've ever witnessed?

The weirdest would probably this club in Tijuana, Mexico, where there was a guy bungee-jumping indoors.

When he made the leap, I was screeching for him. It looked dangerous!

Who's your dream co-host?

My crush, Billy Crawford. I also would like to work with Gary Valenciano. Gary's son, Gabby, is one of my co-hosts, along with Miggy Eugenio and KC Montero.

What are your plans?

I want to go full blast in show biz. I want to try singing, dancing, hosting, acting, and modeling. Everything, except going bold!

How are you preparing for all this?

I am taking dancing and hosting lessons. Now, I am working with choreographers Egay of Speed and Charles of Hotlegs. I am also learning how to speak Tagalog.

If you were a dance style, what would you be?

Hip-hop. Streetdancing. They call it Freestyle in the States.

Who's your dancing idol?

Madonna. I love her style. Her longevity. She always changes. And she shows all her sides, good and bad. I sang along to her songs when I was a kid. In fact, my dad took a home video of me singing Madonna, Janet Jackson, and Paula Abdul dance tunes.

Tell us about your pet dog Adrinna? Do you bring her to the set?

She's a Yorkie. A Yorkshire Terrier. She's my baby. I'm scared of bringing her out of the house because she's so *malikot*. Always jumping around. She's hyper.

Just like you?

Like mother, like daughter.

'Wedding Crashers' takes $20.5-M box-office cake

LOS ANGELES—Owen Wilson and Vince Vaughn caught the box-office bouquet as their comedy "Wedding Crashers" pulled a switch with a $20.5 million weekend, becoming the No. 1 movie in North America after two weekends in second place.

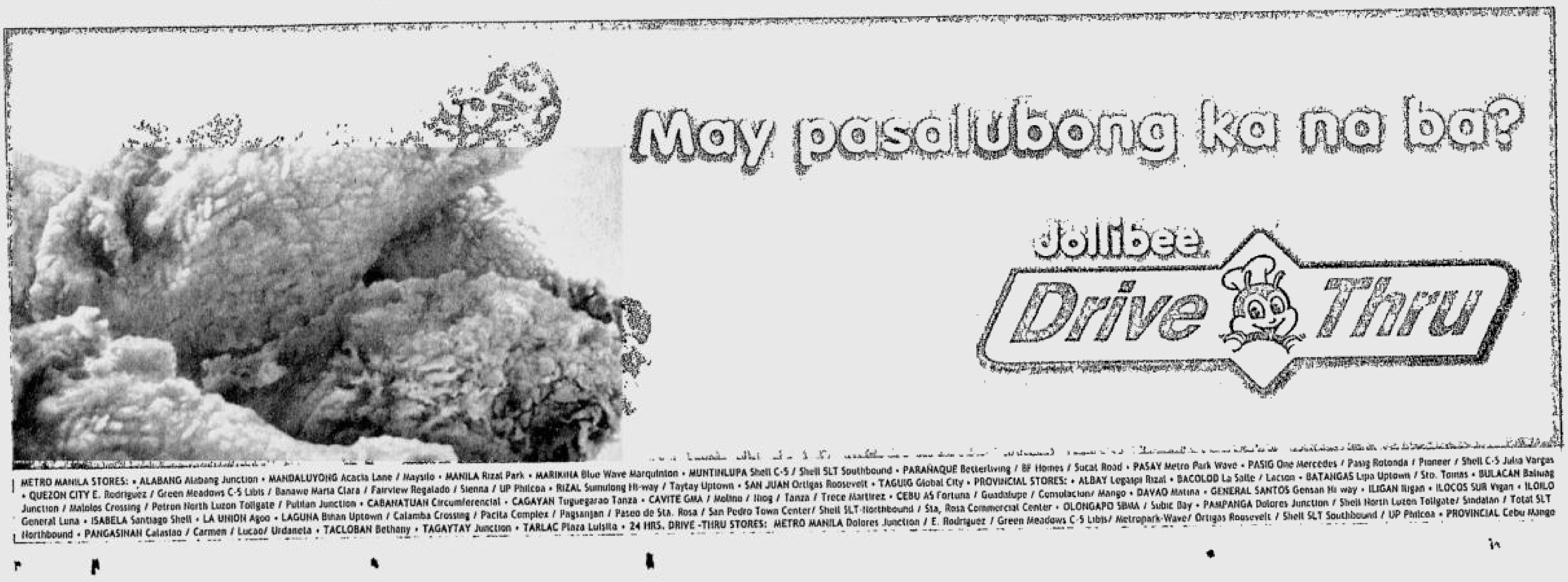
Johnny Depp's "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," the top movie the previous two weekends, slipped to No. 2 with $16.4 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

"Comedy seems to be king [this summer]," said Rory Bruer, head of distribution for Sony.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at North American theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc., official trackers:

1) "Wedding Crashers," $20.5M
2) "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," $16.4M
3) "Sky High," $14.6M
4) "Stealth," $13.5M
5) "Must Love Dogs," $13.05M
6) "Fantastic Four," $6.8M
7) "The Island," $5.6M
8) "War of the Worlds," $5.44M
9) "Bad News Bears," $5.43M
10) "March of the Penguins," $4.2M

AP



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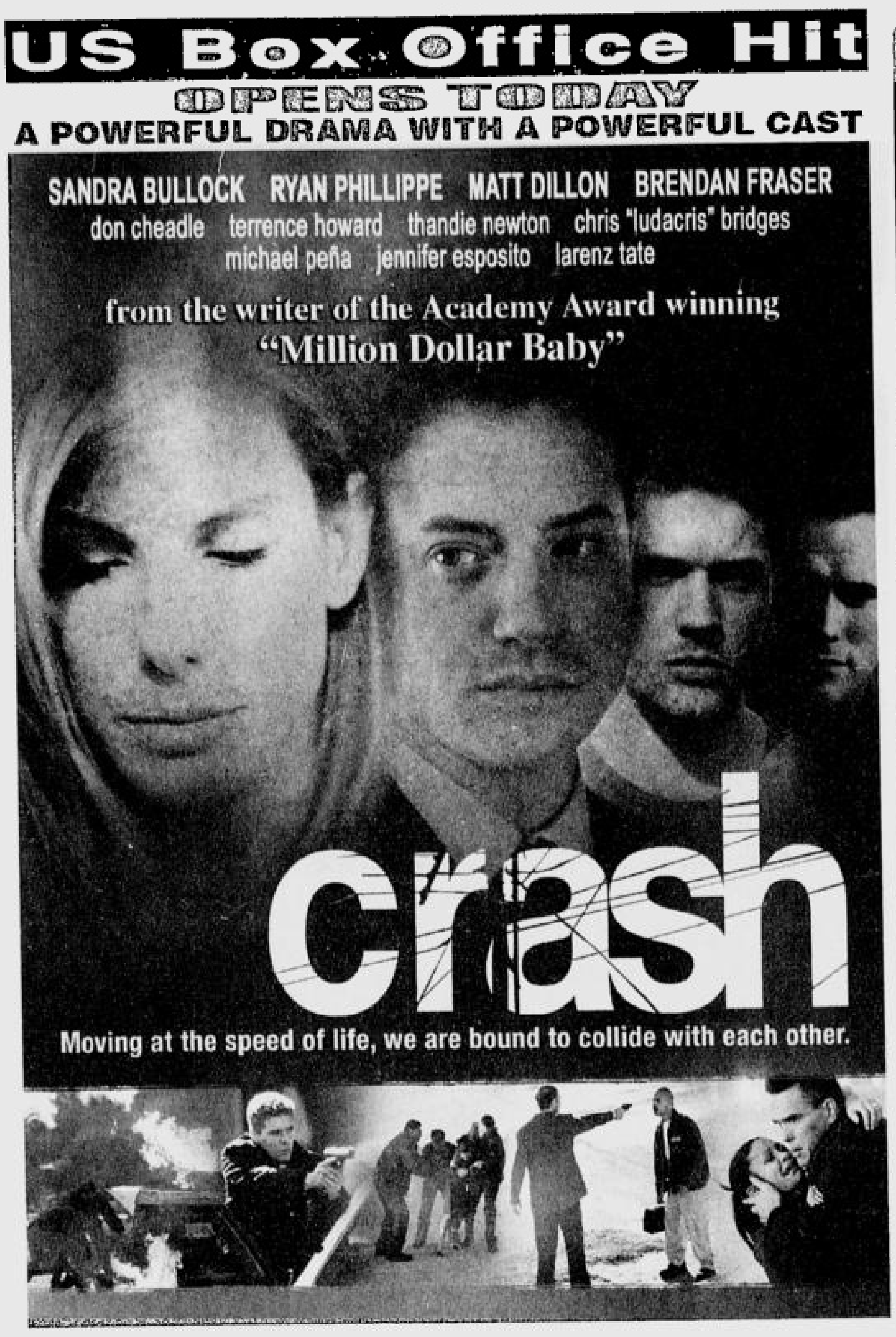
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THE YEAR OF THE YAO
From China to the NBA.
From hero to underdog.
The phenominal journey of Yao Ming.
NEW LINE CINEMA

OPENING TODAY

From page A21

The Year of the Yao (A documentary)

Directed by Adam Del Deo and James Stern
Stars Yao Ming (all 7 feet 6 inches of him)

Adam Nayman, in his May 5 review for Eye Weekly, wrote: "Adam Del Deo and James Stern's polished doc, 'The Year of the Yao,' showcases its subject's remarkable adroitness, both on and off the court, in his rookie season. At the age of 22, Yao not only became an NBA all-star but also an iconic figure in his native China. He probably couldn't have done it, though, without another rookie teammate: his full-time translator, Colin Pine. Their tender rapport creates the feeling of a Mutt-and-Jeff buddy comedy—when Pine takes Yao to a Houston Taco Bell, the latter's deadpan dismissal of the cuisine ("this is not very good") is made funnier by his little buddy's enthused gobbling... If 'The Year of the Yao' is ultimately more charming than terrific, it's probably due to the slickness of the filmmaking. The fast-cut montages of hardwood action and snatches of inspirational music suggest a Sports Center update distended over 90 minutes. The film is at its best when the pace drops, the voice-over gives it a rest, and Yao's engaging personality holds court."

Arahan

Directed by Seung-wan Ryoo
Stars Seung-beom Ryu, So-yi Yoon, Sung-kee Ahn

Chris Parry of efilmcritic.com wrote: "Unlike Jackie Chan's comedy, this is not all pratfalls and whoopsies. Unlike Sammo Hung's comedy, this is not fat jokes and innuendo. And unlike Jerry Lewis' comedy, this is not a bumbling idiot staying a bumbling idiot. As Sang Hwan's ch'i begins to flow, he starts to look more and more like the Saturday morning matinée hero, with a tinge of generation-X cynicism. In fact, his transformation in the film is so well written and well performed, by the end [of the movie] he's almost a reluctant superman... 'Arahan' has a little of everything. It has the action and effects of 'The Matrix,' the female kick-ass [style] of 'Kill Bill, the comedy of 'Shaolin Soccer' ... the artistry of 'Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon,' and the mainstream appeal and crowd-pleasing delivery of 'Spiderman.' "

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1 STEALTH • THX
1:15 4:00 6:45 9:30

2 THE ISLAND
1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00

3 MACHINIST
12:30 2:55 5:20 7:45 10:00

4 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

5 STEALTH
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

6 WEDDING CRASHERS
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

7 WAR OF THE WORLDS
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

8 IF ONLY
12:30 2:55 5:20 7:45 10:00

9 D' ANOTHERS
12:00 2:05 4:10 6:25 9:40

10 NEW POLICE STORY
12:00 2:20 4:50 7:20 9:50

ERMITA
636-7809 to 12

1 STEALTH
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

2 D' ANOTHERS
12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:40

3 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

4 IF ONLY
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

5 WEDDING CRASHERS
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

6 THE ISLAND
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

7 THE MACHINIST
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

METRO EAST
682-8193 • 682-8199

1 THE ISLAND
12:40 3:40 6:40 9:40

2 SHANGHAI LILY
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

3 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00

4 IF ONLY
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

5 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00

6 WEDDING CRASHERS
12:00 2:35 5:15 7:55 10:30

7 STEALTH
2:10 5:00 7:50 10:30

8 D' ANOTHERS
1:45 4:10 6:35 9:00

CITISQUARE MALABON
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3 FANTASTIC FOUR
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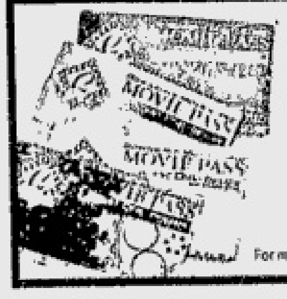
4 D' ANOTHERS



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G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 STEALTH	2 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY	3 THX CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 CRASH	5 THE YEAR OF THE YAO	6 D' ANOTHERS	7 WEDDING CRASHERS
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 D' ANOTHERS	2 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX WEDDING CRASHERS GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 CRASH GUARANTEED SEATS	4 STEALTH GUARANTEED SEATS	5 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY GUARANTEED SEATS	
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	3 STEALTH	4 CRASH	5 D' ANOTHERS	
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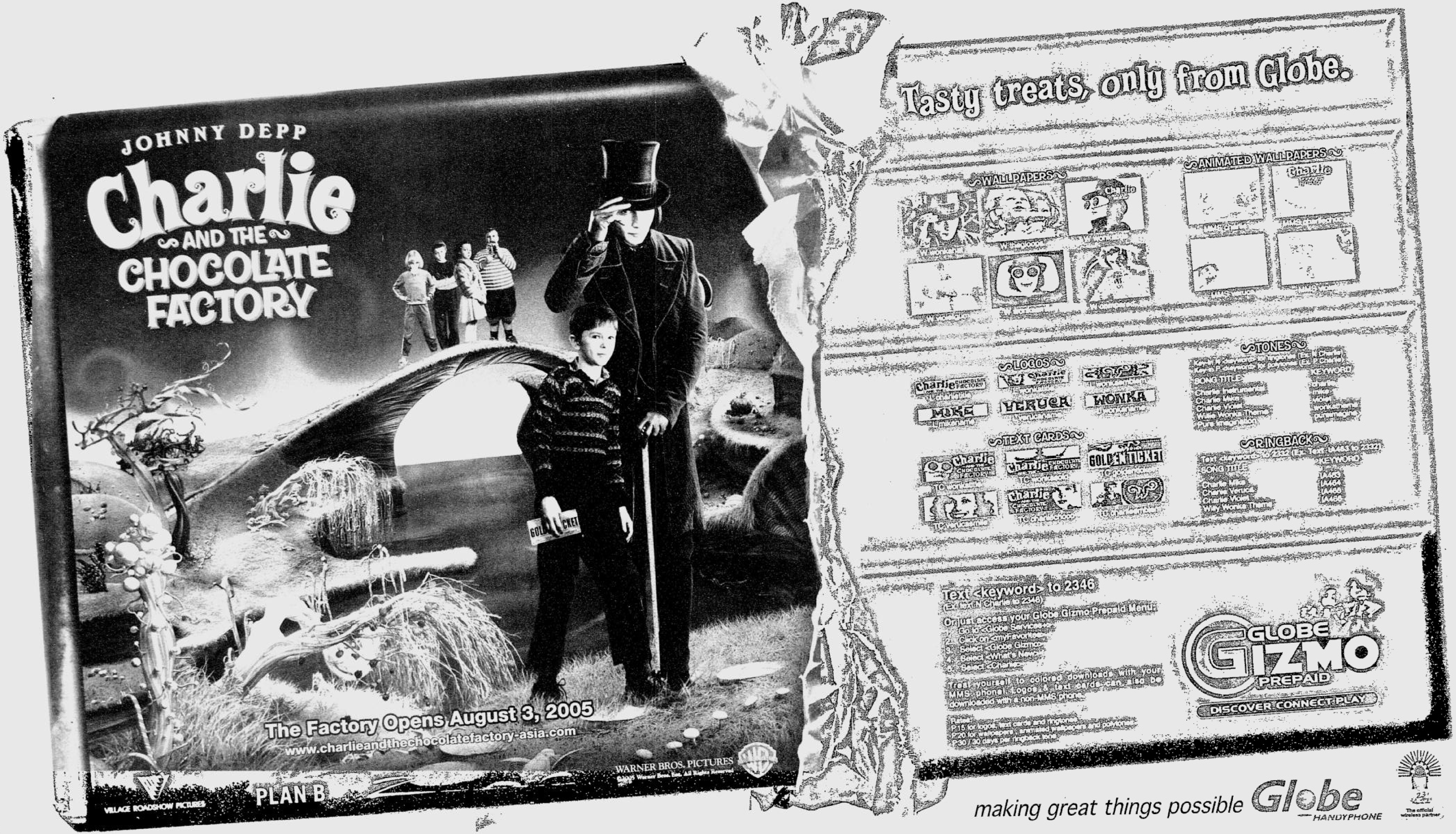

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BIR misses July target by 20%

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue's tax collection effort suffered a major slump in July, putting at risk the government's fiscal program.

Preliminary reports said the BIR's tax collection in July fell short of its target by a significant P9 billion, or by almost 20 percent. While the revenue agency was tasked to collect P46 billion during the month, its collection only reached P37 billion.

The P37-billion collection for July was also 4.9 percent lower than the P38.89 billion collected during the same period last year.

July usually is not a drought month for the BIR because it is the deadline for the e-payment, or the remittance of taxes by taxpayers, many of which are large companies covered by the revenue agency's electronic payment scheme.

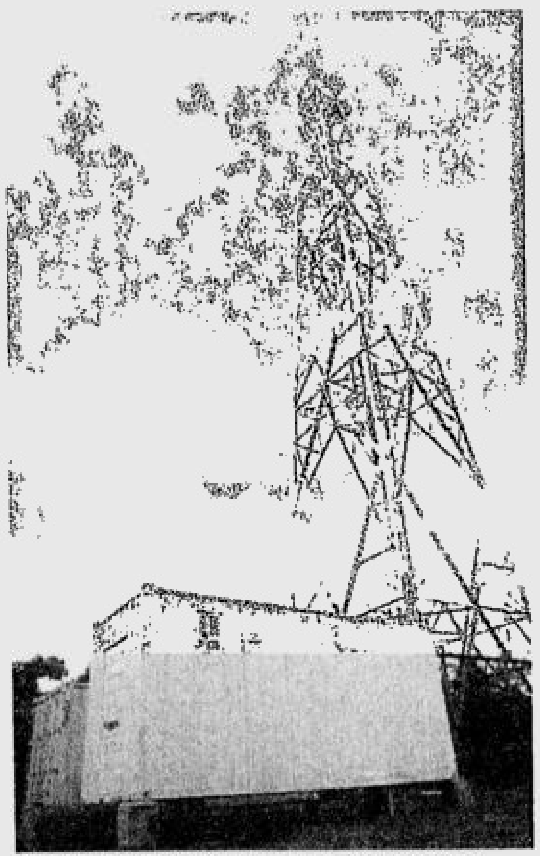
A P9-billion shortfall for one month is huge compared with the P5 billion cumulative shortfall for the first six months of the year. The BIR earlier reported that in the first half, its collection stood at P260 billion compared with the P265.39-billion target.

The July collection of the BIR brings its collection for the first seven months of the year to P297 billion, or about 5 percent lower than its P311-billion target for the period.

The BIR, which accounts for about 60 percent of the national government's revenue source, is hard-pressed to meet its full-year collection target of P547 billion to help government ease its chronic budget deficit.

The Department of Finance, head agency of the BIR, hoped to reduce the budget deficit to P180 billion this year. After posting a lower-than-programmed budget deficit in the first half, the DOF revised its projections, and said it was eyeing to reduce the deficit to P158 billion this year.

Forex losses seen to dampen telcos' net



THE COUNTRY'S top telecommunications firms are all struggling to match the profits they posted in the same quarter last year.

THE COUNTRY'S top two telecommunications firms are likely to post lower quarterly profits this week as subscriber growth slows and a weak peso makes payments on foreign-denominated debts more expensive, analysts said.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Globe Telecom Inc. would struggle to match profits from the same quarter last year, when the run-up to a presidential election sparked a nationwide surge in mobile phone use.

Competition from a third mobile player, Digital Telecommunications Inc., and a maturing industry facing weaker subscriber growth are also eating into profit growth.

Globe is expected to announce today a second quarter net profit of about P1.3 billion to P1.5 billion, down from P3 billion in the first quarter and P3.8 billion a year ago.

Globe accounts for about 38 percent of the mobile market.

Globe subscribers, according to sources, rose during the quarter to 13.6 million from 12.9 million in first quarter.

PLDT is expected to post net income of between P4.60 billion and P6.75 billion ($82.1 million to $120.5 million) in the second quarter to June, the analysts estimated.

This was lower than the P6.8-billion profit a year ago.

The company has said it expected second-quarter core profits, or its profits without extraordinary gains, to at least match the P7 billion it posted in January to March.

PLDT, due to release second quarter results on Thursday, controls nearly all of the fixed-line traffic in the country and has 58 percent of the mobile phone market through its units Smart Communications Inc. and Pilipino Telephone Corp.

FOREX/ B2

INDICATORS

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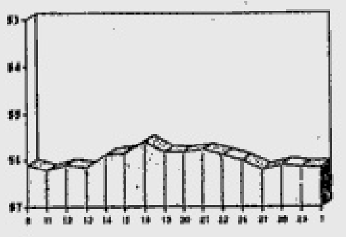

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As of 3 p.m., Aug. 2, 2005

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per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 2, 2005

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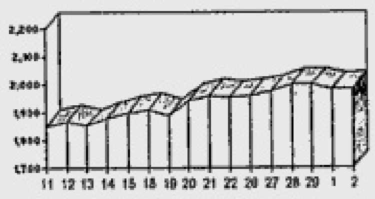

(See stock market report on Page B4)

Little change in market

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange yesterday closed with little change in share prices as

LITTLE/ B2

PSALM puts 225-MW Bataan plant on auction block

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER failing to sell any of the National Power Corp.'s decommissioned plants, the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) has decided to auction off the mothballed 225-megawatt (MW) Bataan Thermal Power Plant by month's end or early September under different terms.

Froilan Tampinco, PSALM vice president for asset management and electricity market, said the terms of reference used in the first round would also be used in the second, but that certain methodologies would be changed.

Tampinco said the terms would have to be modified to attract the companies PSALM wanted to bid for the mothballed facilities.

The scheduling of the auctions would also have to be spaced appropriately to give bidders some breathing space, he said, as the same participants were expected to turn up in the biddings.

PSALM first auctioned off the Bataan plant in late April, but due to some issues with the bidding terms, the plant was not sold.

Earlier in the year, PSALM tried to sell the 200-MW Manila Thermal Power Plant and the 54-MW Cebu II Power

PSALM/ B3

With RATE in decline, BIR seen reverting to tax deals

**By Daxim L. Lucas
and Michelle V. Remo**

(Third of three parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

RECENT changes at the finance department and the tax bureau have all but ensured that the most effective anti-tax evasion drive in the country's history is "dead in the water," according to officials.

In particular, there are questions about the Bureau of Internal Revenue's (BIR) intention to settle cases instead of pursuing tax cheats to the fullest extent of the law.

"It's a matter of justice," Revenue Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares said. "If you allow a compromise in one case, what reason will you have for not allowing compromises in other cases?"

Henares admits that she is worried about the future of the Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) program, which even Malacañang had praised as being responsible for helping raise tax collections earlier this year.

"Sometimes a program's success depends on how enthusiastic its driver is," she said. "Now, we have a finance secretary and revenue commissioner with different personalities. If you're not as enthusiastic, people will see through it."

. It is not only the revenue agencies that are getting off the RATE bandwagon. Other economic managers are also weighing in, seeking the reevaluation of the program.

New team, new thrust

Newly appointed Finance Secretary Margarito Teves says the filing of the cases will no longer be done weekly. But he stresses that the slowing down does not mean the DOF is wavering in its tax drive. He simply wants to focus on quality rather than quantity of the cases.

Teves wants to soften the program slightly by incorporating the element of "fairness." This, he said, would address allegations that the government has been irresponsibly filing tax evasion cases in a haphazard manner to the disadvantage of the accused.

Newly appointed Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila is singing the same tune in calling for fairness. In particular, Favila wants to lessen the media hype accorded to the tax evasion cases—a core principle of the RATE program.

During the first joint press conference of President Arroyo's new economic team last week, Favila called on members of the press not to sensationalize the tax evasion cases and to soften news reports against people charged with tax evasion who are not yet proven guilty.

Favila—once a top lieutenant of tax evasion suspect Lucio Tan at Allied Banking Corp.—aired complaints from the business sector that the image of suspected tax cheats became gravely tainted by too much publicity, considering that their guilt have yet to be proven.

To be sure, there is good reason to call for fairness in pursuing tax evaders, although it apparently defeats the main goal of the RATE program, which is to discourage tax dodgers by parading before media cases filed against high-profile suspects.

Even Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez has turned the tables on the BIR, saying the cases were filed in a haphazard manner, making it look like they were filed merely for publicity purposes.

On cue, actress Judy Ann Santos, sued under the RATE program, countered the BIR's charge and filed a complaint against former Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno. The actress said the revenue agency was negligent in computing her tax liabilities. Instead of having a tax deficiency, the actress claimed that she even had excess tax payments.

Open to compromises?

Some of the country's most hard-line tax crusaders also have a less-than-hard-line stance when it comes to criminal prosecution.

Liwayway Vinzons-Chato, who was BIR chief during the Ramos administration, believes the threat of being brought to court is

WITH/ B3

NOTICE TO THE STOCKHOLDERS OF PRUDENTIAL BANK

To All Stockholders of Prudential Bank:

Please be advised that the Bank of the Philippine Islands ("BPI" or the "Buyer"), is offering to purchase from stockholders of Prudential Bank (the "Company") at least 6,574,162 common shares of the Company (the "Shares"), representing 80% of the outstanding common shares of the Company and up to 8,217,702 Shares, representing 100% of the outstanding common shares of the Company for cash at an Offer Price of P 746.4374 per share (the "Tender Offer") under the terms and conditions attached hereto as Annex A ("Terms of the Tender Offer").

In connection with the Tender Offer, the Buyer filed on July 28, 2005, a Tender Offer Statement ("SEC Form 19-1") with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and the Philippine Stock Exchange ("PSE") pursuant to Section 19 of Republic Act No. 8799, otherwise known as the Securities Regulation Code.

Subject to the Terms of the Tender Offer, stockholders of the Company may tender all or a portion of their Shares for acceptance and purchase by the Buyer beginning 9:30 a.m. of August 1, 2005 until 12:00 noon of August 26, 2005 (the "Tender Offer Period"). The Tender Offer Period may be extended by the Buyer subject to prior approval of the SEC.

Stockholders who wish to offer all or a portion of their Shares for sale to the Buyer may do so by securing an Instruction to Tender Shares form (the "Instruction Form") from the Company, the Depository, the Transaction Arranger or the PSE Public Information and Assistance Center and submitting a duly accomplished Instruction Form together with: (i) The original copy of stock certificates of the Company duly endorsed (for certificated Shares); (ii) If the stockholder is a corporation, a notarized corporate secretary's certificate setting forth the pertinent resolutions of the tendering stockholder's board of directors or equivalent body authorizing the tender and sale of the Shares and the designated signatories for the purpose including the latter's specimen signature; and (iii) If the stockholder is an individual, a photocopy of a valid identification card with signature to be presented together with the original copy.

The Depository, the PDTC Participant and/or the STA reserve the right to require the tendering stockholder to present additional documents for purposes of determining the validity, eligibility and acceptability of the Shares being tendered by the stockholder pursuant to the Offer.

The Shares being tendered for sale to the Buyer **must be received by the Depository in scripless form not later than 12:00 noon of August 26,** 2005. Shares received thereafter or without the required documents may be rejected by the Buyer. To ensure that the Depository receives the Shares in scripless form within the Tender Offer Period, the tendering stockholders should submit the required documents: (a) to the Depository, for certificated Shares, at least 5 trading days before the end of the Tender Offer Period, or on or before August 19, 2005, to allow for lodgement of the shares with the Philippine Depository and Trust Corporation ("PDTC") before the end of the Tender Offer Period; or (b) to their stockbroker or custodian (the "PDTC Participant"), for Shares lodged with their PDTC Participant, at least 3 trading days before the end of the Tender Offer Period or on or before August 23, 2005, to allow for the electronic transfer of the Shares to the Depository before the end of the Tender Offer Period.

Tendering stockholders may withdraw any Share tendered by sending a written notice of withdrawal to the Depository or the PDTC Participant (as the case may be) together with their copy of the Instruction Form duly conformed and accepted by the Depository or the PDTC Participant any time before the end of the Tender Offer Period. Shares shall be returned in the same form it was received to the PDTC Participant (if previously lodged with the PDTC Participant) or to the tendering stockholder (if previously certificated) within ten (10) trading days from the end of the Tender Offer Period. The cost of returning the Shares shall be borne by the stockholder making the withdrawal.

The Shares shall be deemed accepted by the Buyer for payment on August 29, 2005 (the "Closing Date") subject to the fulfillment of following conditions on or before the Closing Date: (i) the Buyer shall have obtained all corporate, contractual and regulatory approvals, consents and authorizations for the purchase by the Buyer of the Shares; and (ii) Eligible Shares representing at least eighty percent (80%) of the Company's outstanding capital stock or 6,574,162 Shares shall have been delivered to the Depository.

Prior to the commencement of the Tender Offer Period, the Buyer has put the Offer Price due on One Hundred Percent (100%) of the outstanding capital stock of the Company in escrow with the Purchase Price Escrow Agent, Bank of the Philippine Islands - Asset Management and Trust Group.

Subject to the Terms of the Tender Offer, the Paying Agent shall make available for pick up from its office, checks in payment for the Shares equal to the total purchase price less stock transaction taxes plus the tendering stockholders' pro rata share of any interest earned on the escrowed funds (net of applicable taxes and escrow fees). Check payments for certificated Shares shall be made in the name of the tendering stockholder for pick-up by the tendering stockholder or his/its duly authorized representative. When collecting payment, the tendering stockholder is required to present the Instruction Form duly conformed and accepted by the Depository together with proper identification documents. His/Its duly authorized representatives shall be required to present an authorization letter from the tendering stockholder. Check payments for Shares lodged with a PDTC Participant shall be made in the name of the PDTC Participant. Beneficial owners are advised to arrange with their PDTC Participant on the manner of collecting payment for their Shares.

Stockholders are advised to read the Instruction Form, the Terms of the Tender Offer, and the SEC Form 19-1. For queries, please call any of the Company, the Depository or the Transaction Arranger at contact details set forth below. Copies of the Instruction Form and the SEC Form 19-1 may be obtained by the stockholders of the Company, free of charge, from the following:

- Prudential Bank
  3/F Prudential Bank Building, 6787 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
  Attention: Ms. Yvette B. Rosete at (632) 812-7558

- BPI Securities Corporation as Depository, Crossing Broker and Paying Agent
  8/F, BPI Building, Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
  Attention: Ms. Janet D. Amora at (632) 845-5617 or Mr. Jasper M. Jimenez at (632) 816-9190 or 92

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- The PSE Public Information and Assistance Center
  G/F PSE Center, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
  Attention: Ms. Arlene Edades at (632) 688-7601

- PSE website at www.pse.org.ph

By:
Bank of the Philippine Islands

[Original Signed]
Aurelio R. Montinola III
President

ADVT

RP regaining economic growth momentum, says BSP official

Success of reforms to overshadow political concerns

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY is slowly regaining the economic growth momentum that was disrupted by the political crisis in the last two months, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' chief investor relations officer said.

In an interview, Renato Pizarro said the government's investor relations office was now getting a more positive feedback from foreign investors, especially after President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, in her State-of-the-Nation-Address, vowed to implement fiscal discipline and pursue economic reforms "at whatever political cost."

"It proves that there's really focus on economic fundamentals. The way the stock market has been performing shows that confidence has not completely dissipated," Pizarro said.

"The political uncertainties will slowly be eaten up by the success of the reform programs," he said.

While the political noise had somehow shaken investor confidence, Pizarro said the country was now being given credit for its capacity to swiftly get back on its feet.

He noted that the government's new economic team was hell-bent on continuing the reform agenda that had brought back the Philippines to the international business community's investment radars in the first four months of this year.

He said the financial markets knew that the charter change proposal of the President was not something the economic reforms were hinged on.

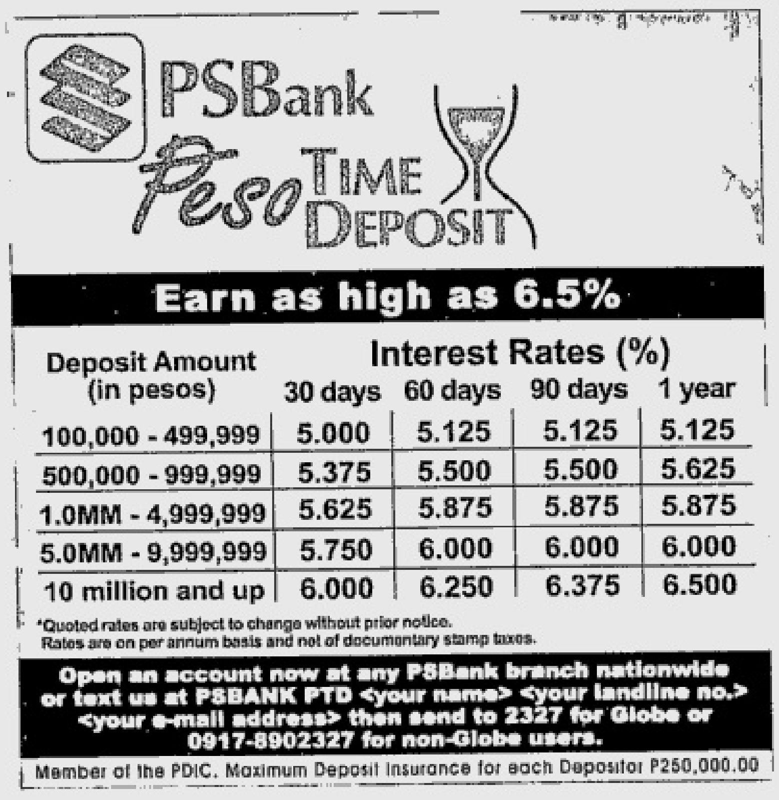
"The priority is to address the fiscal problem. Cha-cha is not a pre-condition," he said.

But Pizarro said two conditions would have to be fulfilled before the Philippines could regain a "stable" outlook from three major credit rating agencies Fitch, Standard & Poor's and Moody's. These are the lifting of the expanded value-added tax law suspension and the easing of political uncertainties.

International rating agencies placed the country's sovereign credit rating on a "negative" outlook after 10 key officials—including former key economic managers Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin and Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno—quit the administration and joined calls for the President's resignation.

A negative rating in turn, means that a credit rating downgrade is possible over the near term.

He said Finance Secretary Margarito Teves was optimistic that the Supreme Court would render a favorable ruling that would allow the VAT implementation.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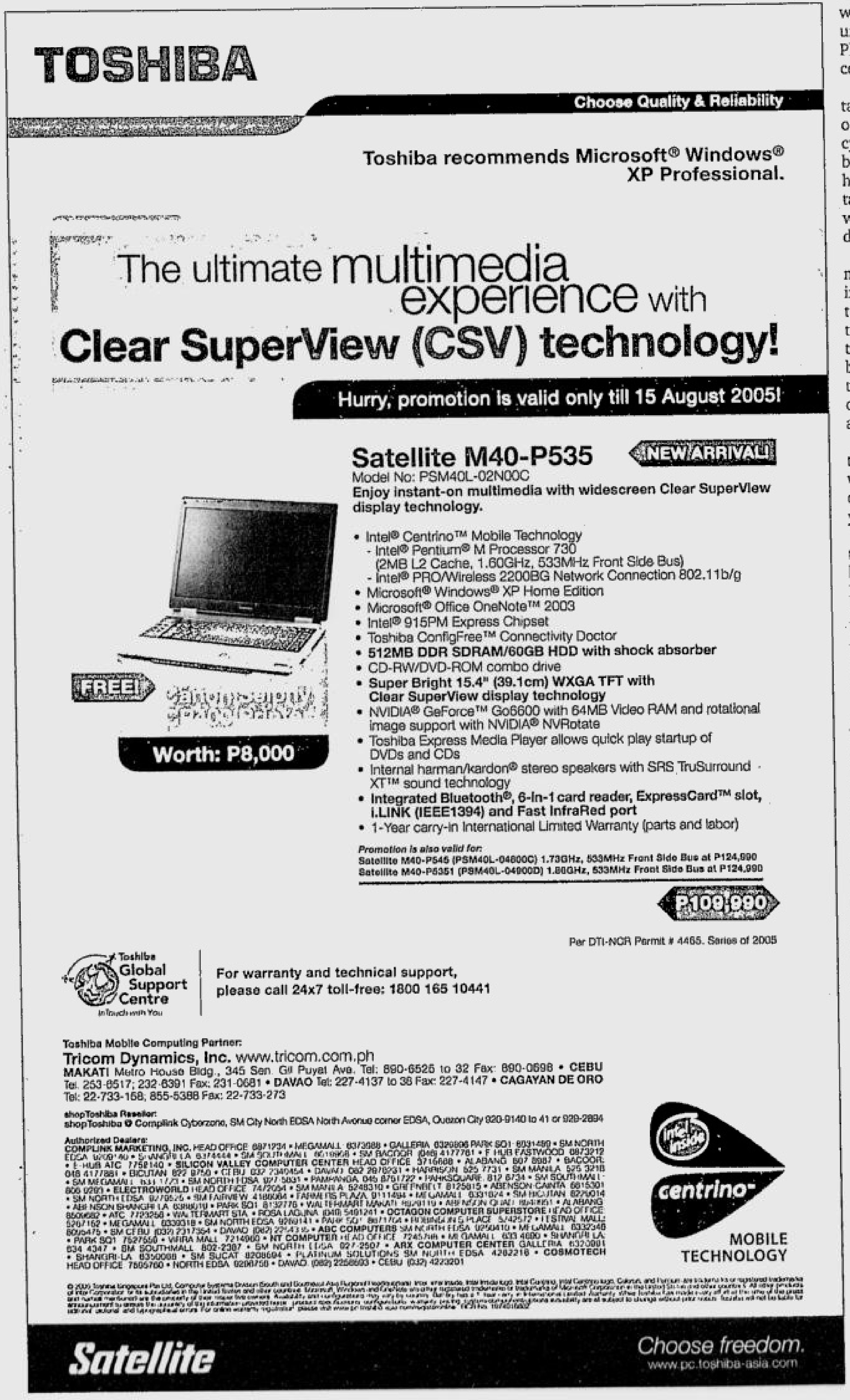
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PPA rates under review

THE PHILIPPINE Ports Authority is planning to overhaul its tariff structure by correcting the huge disparity between the cargo handling/docking rates imposed on foreign ships and those charged on domestic vessels, a senior official said.

Local vessels pay less than 20 percent of the rate imposed on foreign vessels when docking and unloading cargos on Philippine ports, according to the PPA.

Raul Santos, assistant general manager of PPA said the agency would soon embark on a comprehensive review of its tariffs to align these with global standards.

Using a new method and correcting loopholes in the tariff could reduce the PPA's revenue at a time when the cargos being brought in and the vessels docking on Philippine ports are on a decline.

Santos admitted there were less cargo vessels that docked on the PPA ports this year.

The PPA managed to increase its profit by 4 percent to P677.6 million in the first quarter, from P650 million last year despite softer take-up from cargo vessels.

"We have to subject all these items to sensitivity analysis to know what tariff is best for the agency and for the economy," he said. *Clarissa S. Batino*

Little . . .

From page B1

investors stayed on the sidelines due to renewed political concerns, while others took profits after a week-long advance, dealers said.

The PSE composite index rose 2.16 points to 1,985.09 after trading between 1,978.00 and 1,989.24.

Volume amounted to 222.55 million shares worth P698.5 million ($12.4 million). The broader all-shares index gained 0.27 point to 1,193.12.

Losers slightly edged out gainers 37 to 35, while 46 stocks ended unchanged. *AFP*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 2, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	30	30	30	30	1,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50	50	49.5	50	2,245,800
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	400
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	30,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	49	49	49	49	84,400
International Exch. Bank	19	19	19	19	33,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28.5	27.5	28	1,422,700
Philippine National Bank	46.5	46.5	46.5	46.5	37,800
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	30,300
Security Bank Corp.	28.5	30	28	29.5	184,900
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	250	265	250	265	500
Manulife Financial Corp.	2775	2775	2775	2775	80
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	175,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2025	2025	2025	2025	1,570
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.25	13.5	13	13.5	67,800
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.04	1.04	1	1.02	2,161,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	835	835	825	825	4,490
Ipeople Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	10,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.05	0.05	8,300,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.6	2.65	3,448,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1635	1635	1610	1615	144,300
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	3,300,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	15	15	14.75	14.75	16,800
Manila Electric Co. B	24	24.25	24	24.25	142,600
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	1,453,000
Petron Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.15	3.2	1,880,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.62	1.7	1.62	1.7	62,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8	8	8	8	200,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1	1.04	1	1.04	404,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	720,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	87,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	360,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.7	3.75	9,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31	31	30.5	31	262,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	30.5	31.5	30.5	31.5	353,400
San Miguel Corp. A	69	69.5	69	69.5	128,800
San Miguel Corp. B	100	100	100	100	8,000
Universal Robina Corp.	16	16	16	16	5,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	15,000,000
Ayala Corp.	312.5	312.5	307.5	310	90,470
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.1	5.1	5	5	12,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023	3,300,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.98	1.98	1.94	1.94	50,000
APC Group Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.26	2,000,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	24,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.73	0.73	370,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	170,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.14	1.08	1.14	13,728,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	40,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.215	0.23	0.215	0.23	2,910,000
CADP Group Corp.	0.85	0.9	0.85	0.9	70,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	10,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.85	2.85	2.75	2.75	5,885,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	1,000,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.06	448,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	7.4	7.4	7.1	7.1	517,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	44.5	44.5	43.5	44.5	165,900
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	300,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	50,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.35	3.4	3.35	3.35	1,649,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	500,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.36	1.38	1.36	1.36	2,499,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.32	0.34	0.32	0.34	1,940,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.2	1,060,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	2,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	100,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.54	0.56	0.54	0.55	1,330,000
SM Investments Corp.	217	219	216	217	164,980
South China Resources Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	80,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	60,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.185	0.18	0.185	3,650,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc	2	2	2	2	60,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.44	1.46	114,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	7,700,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.95	0.96	0.94	0.96	4,410,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	6.5	7.8	5.5	5.5	5,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	120,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.34	1.34	1,444,000
Manila Jockey Club	3	3	3	3	44,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	3,200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	13	13.75	13	13.5	826,900
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,800
PLDT 10% Pref Series AA	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	6,100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	5,000
Far Eastern University	510	510	510	510	50
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.1	8.2	8	8.2	6,290,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	1,200,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	90,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.21	0.225	0.21	0.225	7,410,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	570,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.44	1.46	1.44	1.46	2,594,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.195	0.2	0.19	0.2	370,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	1,250,000
SM Development Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	49,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.3	2,925,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.12	1.12	1.04	1.04	1,290,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.14	1.14	1.04	1.06	1,019,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	2,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	4.95	4.95	4.95	4.95	63,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	440,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	540,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	3,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	21,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.8	0.8	0.79	0.79	380,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.92	0.92	0.89	0.9	1,970,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	29	29	28.5	28.5	45,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.007	0.0075	0.0065	0.0065	30,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.6	181,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.145	0.145	0.14	0.14	8,030,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	100,000

CURRENCIES

August 2, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.820411847	1.000000	56.1670
Japan	Yen	0.007309	0.008909	0.5004
United Kingdom	Pound	1.451062	1.768700	99.3426
Hongkong	Dollar	0.105554	0.128660	7.2264
Switzerland	Franc	0.641849	0.782350	43.9423
Canada	Dollar	0.677075	0.825287	46.3539
Singapore	Dollar	0.494343	0.602555	33.8437
Australia	Dollar	0.624172	0.760803	42.7320
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.176216	2.652590	148.9880
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.218771	0.266660	14.9775
Brunei	Dollar	0.492858	0.600745	33.7420
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000102	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.01975	0.024073	1.3521
Uae	Dirham	0.223399	0.272301	15.2943
Euro	Euro	1	1.218900	68.4620
ArgentinaPeso	0.287108	0.349956	19.6560	
Brazil	REAL	0.344306	0.419674	23.5718
Denmark	Kroner	0.134056	0.163401	9.1777
India	Rupee	0.018916	0.023057	1.2950
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.218835	0.266738	14.9819
Mexico	New Peso	0.077489	0.094451	5.3050
New Zealand	Dollar	0.561003	0.683807	38.4074
Norway	Kroner	0.127389	0.155275	8.7213
Pakistan	Rupee	0.01377	0.016784	0.9427
South Africa	Rand	0.125851	0.153400	8.6160
Korea	Won	0.0008	0.000975	0.0548
Sweden	Kroner	0.106425	0.129722	7.2861
Syria	Pound	0.015804	0.019264	1.0820
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025745	0.031380	1.7625
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000382	0.000466	0.0262

Forex losses . . .

From page B1

PLDT had mostly foreign-denominated debts of $2.4 billion and Globe over $900 million at the end of the first quarter. A weaker peso made repayments costlier in the quarter just ended, the analysts said.

Allegations of election fraud against President Macapagal-Arroyo helped push the peso down to 56 per US dollar in late June, from about 54.75 at the start of the quarter, which analysts said would weigh on profits. *Reuters with a report from Clarissa S. Batino*

Go, George, go

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

PROOF that George Go wants to return to Equitable PCI Bank is that he has hired Noli Singson as lawyer to press Sen. Alfredo "Dirty Harry" Lim for the return of Go's bank shares.

Singson happens to be a first cousin and personal lawyer of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, with whom he shares building space.

According to the pro-Go grapevine, the former Equitable PCI Bank chairman had to hand in 20 million bank shares, under duress, to Lim during the troubled Erap years as collateral for the rumored P800 million Lim had placed with Equitable's investment bank subsidiary.

The tough Manila mayor, so the account goes, had to be appeased and be assured that his investments were safe given the serious bank run that Equitable PCI Bank was then encountering.

At the current range price of P50/share, the Equitable PCI Bank collateral should be adequate to protect the Lim placement. To cover the interest rate shortfall, Go also had to pledge his Forbes Park house to the former Manila mayor.

But that is only half of the story.

Go still has 13 million shares left, but which apparently his brothers and sisters have taken over to answer for other alleged commitments George had undertaken.

What happened to that block, and who currently holds it and who reaped the cash dividends from it, deserves a separate column item.

In any case, the cash dividends did not go to George, since, according to an eyewitness account, George's wife, Rosie, had to even take economy when she flew to Chicago to attend a recent Rotary International convention.

Ongpin's latest Cure

DESPITE his overwhelming business background, Roberto Ongpin's telecom ventures have been spectacularly underwhelming, but that does not seem to deter the former Marcos trade minister from trying again.

According to the grapevine, Ongpin is bringing in Hong Kong's Hutchison Telecommunication group into the troubled Extelcom and Eastern Telecom groups through a new company called Cure (Connectivity Unlimited Resource Enterprise Inc.).

Cure has a pending 3G license application with the National Telecommunications Commission while Hutchison, controlled by billionaire Li Ka-shing, owns the "3" international 3G video mobile network, in addition to landline and cellular presence in Hong Kong and Macau, Ghana, India, Israel, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

To swing this deal, Ongpin, according to the grapevine, had to tap broker Vivian Yuchengco for her famed Mike Arroyo connection in sequestered Eastern Telecom and as well bring on board Mike Arroyo cousin, Benito "Bomboy" Araneta, to work on the Extelcom creditors.

Araneta, who clung to sequestered Philcomsat although he had been replaced by Erap, is currently chair of a Philcomsat telecom subsidiary, the publicly listed Philcomsat Holdings Corp., where his 89-year-old uncle, Manuel Nieto Jr., continues to preside as president/CEO.

To pacify the Marcos claimants, Araneta and Ongpin had to as well bring in Imelda Marcos son-in-law Greggy Araneta, who also happens to be Bomboy's cousin, as an investor in the new telecom venture.

No wonder Greggy Araneta and Ongpin were seen having a hush-hush dinner with a Chinese suit last Thursday at Makati Shangri-La's Shang Palace.

Money-go-round

- JAMES Go, the chair/CEO of JGSummit, has acquired two million more company shares, bringing his total shareholdings to over 216.67 million shares. At current market price, Mr James's pile—not counting Digitel, Universal Robina and Robinsons Land—is worth about P740 million.
- CENTRO Escolar University, now controlled by publisher/Manila Hotel owner Emilio Yap, has been fined P75,000 by the Securities and Exchange Commission for incomplete filing of the 2004 first quarter report.

Heard through the grapevine

THE TWO British Virgin Islands companies that a Piatco bagman used to siphon off multimillion-dollar deposits from the graft-ridden Terminal 3 airport project had been incorporated by a lawyer from the Hong Kong branch of the Romulo Mabanta law firm.

Romulo Mabanta—Romulo being Ricardo, the chairman of the "resign-GMA" Makati Business Club—declined to comment when asked about the report.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

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PSALM puts 225-MW ...

From page B1

Plant, but to no avail.

PSALM will also be placing on the auction block the 22.3-MW General Santos and the 104-MW Aplaya plants.

The government agency has so far sold six operational Napocor plants—five hydroelectric and one coal-fired. These are the 3.5-MW Talomo plant in Davao for $1.37 million, the 1.6-MW Agusan plant in Bukidnon for $1.53 million, the 1.8-MW Barit plant in Camarines Sur for $480,000, the 0.4-MW Cawayan plant in Sorsogon for $410,410, the 1.2-MW Loboc plant in Bohol for $1.42 million, and the 600-MW Masinloc coal-fired plant in Zambales for $561.74 million.

With RATE ...

From page B1

a tool to enforce tax collection, rather than an end by itself.

Vinzons-Chato earned her spurs by going after tobacco and beer magnate Lucio Tan for an estimated P25 billion in back taxes—the single biggest tax evasion rap ever filed against an individual or corporation in the country's history.

Given her history, one would think that Vinzons-Chato would be just as bloodthirsty when it comes to sending tax evaders to the gallows. Her views, however, may come as a surprise.

"If (Tan) had offered a compromise (on his alleged tax liabilities), I would have taken it," she said in a telephone interview.

A compromise would have generated tax revenues on the spot, while a protracted legal battle would put the government at a clear disadvantage. "It is cheaper to pay judges than to pay the P25 billion," she said.

Another former finance official, however, believes tax evaders understand only the language of fear, stressing that the threat of being sent to jail is the government's most potent weapon.

"Taxpayers have to see that the government is willing to flex its muscles," former Finance Undersecretary Milwida Guevarra said. "How well one pays his tax obligations depends on the perception of punishment."

Guevarra has research studies covering as far back as 1986 which show "empirically" that Filipinos evade taxes—despite knowing with certainty that they will be caught—because they know they can settle their obligations with tax authorities out of court.

"If the probability of punishment is low, tax evasion will continue," she predicts grimly.

Because of this, Guevarra laments Parayno's departure from the BIR, saying, "Willy [Parayno] really kept this republic afloat through higher tax collections."

The dismantling of RATE

The departure of former Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima and Parayno have not only exposed RATE's vulnerabilities, its effectiveness notwithstanding, but has also exposed other members of the RATE team to what some insiders believe is a coordinated counter-campaign.

Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan, who manages RATE's operations, has been subjected to regular blind item attacks in tabloids and AM radio commentaries, ranging from his supposed links to the Hyatt 10 to his deputies' alleged extortion activities in a parallel campaign against state officials who fail "lifestyle checks."

Henares, meanwhile, faces significantly diminished influence under Buñag's watch. BIR sources said Buñag—the head of the bureau's legal division and reportedly a Rotary Club-mate of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo—belongs to a rival faction that was largely sidelined during Parayno's term.

And Buñag makes no secret of his disdain for his former bosses' tack.

"They had to make a show before," he said. "Secretary Purisima wanted to make a big bang, so they wanted a weekly filing."

While Teves has vowed to continue an unrelenting campaign against tax cheats, Buñag has adopted a stance more in tune with BIR's long history of entering into compromise agreements with tax evasion suspects.

"I'm looking at giving them one last chance to settle," Buñag said.

Indeed, it looks like its back to business as usual for tax authorities.

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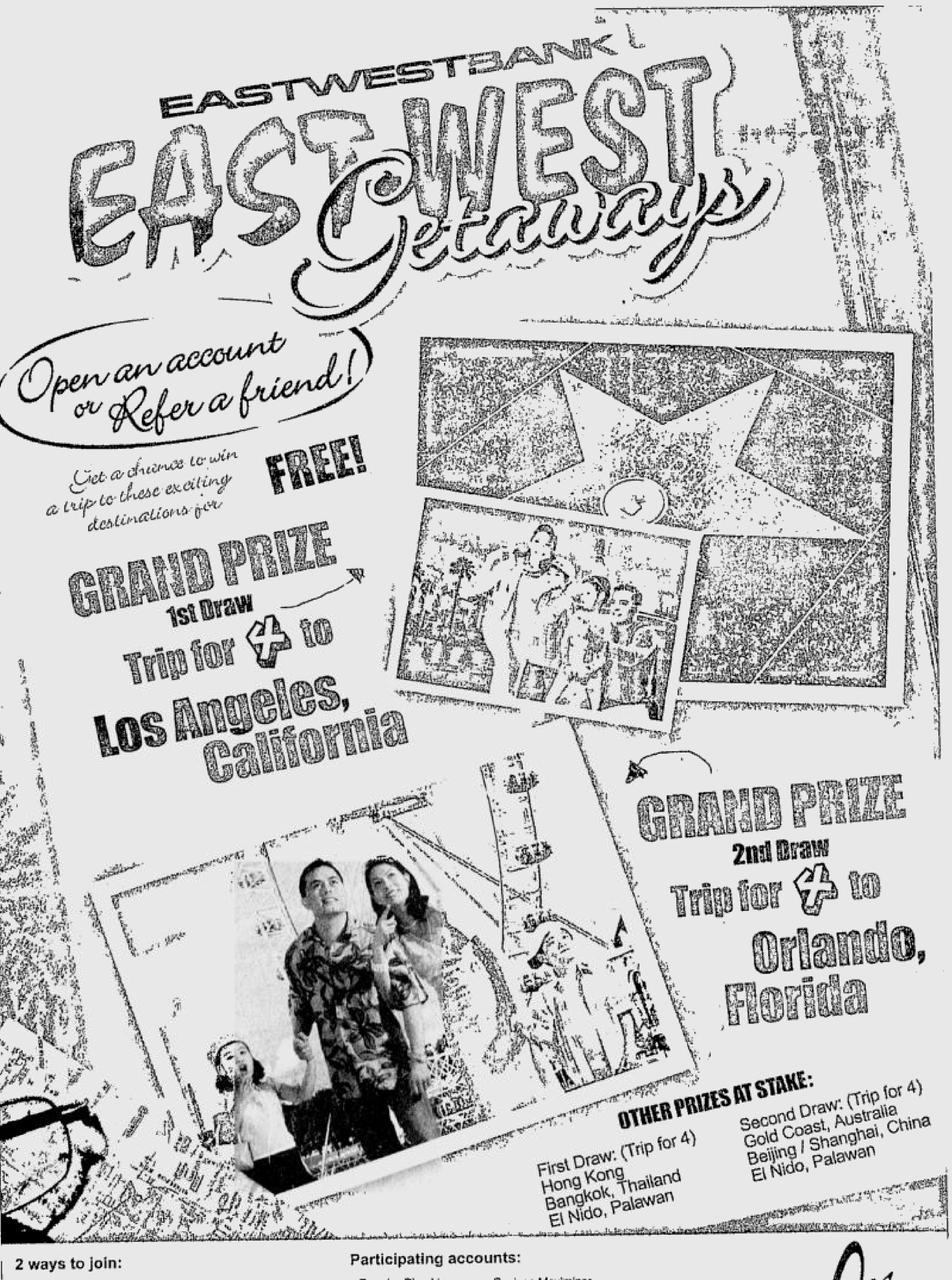
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Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

Is it better to work in a family-owned business?

By Farida R. Pangan
Contributor

PEOPLE AT WORK *Pulse*

IF YOU go shopping or catch a movie, you'll doubtlessly enter a leisure center owned by the wealthy Ayala, Sy or Gokongwei clans. Millions of television viewers watch shows aired on channels owned by the Lopez family. These are some of the most successful Filipino families' businesses, but there are thousands of other family businesses in the country.

In most nations, family enterprises make up 60 percent to 90 percent of all businesses. In the US, for instance, figures show that family-owned firms contributed about 49 percent of the gross domestic product (that's $3.3 trillion in goods and services), employed 59 percent of the workforce, and created 78 percent of all new jobs. This global data is echoed in the Philippines by the increasing number of small and medium enterprises most of which are family-owned and are seen by the government as a significant factor in generating domestic-driven growth.

However, anecdotal evidences suggest that working in a family-owned business can be a challenging experience. For non-family employees who enter the dynamics of a family-owned business, working in a family firm not only means taking on work-related responsibilities, but also involves establishing and managing relationships with both coworkers and family members. This is easier said than done. For the past several years, family businesses have increasingly come under fire for inefficient, outmoded, and nepotistic practices. As a result, family businesses continue to experience difficulties in attracting and retaining non-family employees.

Survey results

In order to find out how Filipinos generally perceive working in a family-owned firm, People at Work Pulse posted questions on this topic. Specifically, readers were asked the following questions: "What are the benefits of non-family employees working in family-owned businesses?" "What problems do non-family employees encounter in family-owned businesses?" "What type of organization would they prefer to work in?"

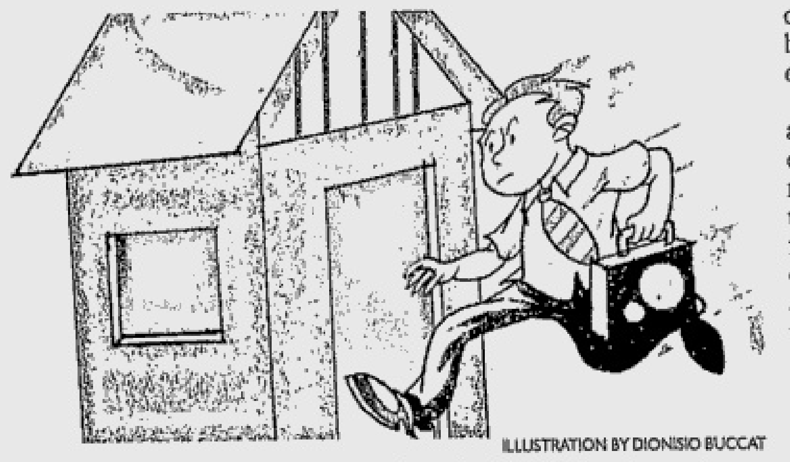
ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

A total of 52 readers responded to the survey, with majority (86 percent) of them having worked in a family-owned business. Seventy-three percent were males with an average age of 25 years. Respondents reported being related to the founder either as an immediate family member (46 percent) or an extended family member (4 percent). Around 19 percent were non-family employees, while 6 percent said they were a close friend of the owner. The rest (25 percent) failed to mention their relationship to the owner.

Pros and cons

Respondents identified possible benefits for non-family employees working in family-owned businesses. Given the deep sense of value for the family of Filipinos, it is not surprising that majority (69 percent) of the respondents found having a family culture and being treated as part of the family as a distinct advantage. Aside from keeping a close-knit family feel at work, respondents also believed that working in family businesses allows non-family employees to have the opportunity to interact with the owner himself (56 percent), and be exposed to a wider range of decision-making opportunities (52 percent). Similarly, working towards the achievement of the founder's vision/business direction (52 percent), and the loyalty among other employees (50 percent) can be beneficial to non-family employees in family-owned businesses.

On the other hand, there are disadvantages for non-family employees working in family-owned businesses. Family businesses face the unique challenge of balancing the needs of the family with the needs of the business. In the survey, respondents believed that conflict within the family spill over to the business (54 percent) and favoritism/preference of family members for certain positions (54 percent) is still prevalent. Other disadvantages for non-family employees include authoritative decision- making (50 percent), the presence of less formal policies (44 percent) and the lack of career development (27 percent) opportunities.

Implications

Finally, when asked what type of organizational structure respondents would like to work in, half of the respondents said it does not matter what type of organization. This is understandable given the high unemployment rate in the country. It seems employees would rather make do and stay in their present organization, regardless of whether it's a family or non-family organization rather than run the risk of not having a job at all.

So how can business leaders make sense of these results? On one hand, family businesses need to build on their strengths and work on their weaknesses. For example, since having a family-like culture remains to be an advantage to family-owned businesses, family business owners should continue propagating such an atmosphere by treating non-family employees as extended family members and increasing the family's presence within the organization.

On the other hand, weaknesses of family businesses particularly, the lack of formal policies and perceived preference for family members can be eliminated by formalizing policies on areas such as compensation, recruitment or performance management. In short, installing management discipline within the organization.

As for non-family employees, remember that working in a family-owned business, has both pros and cons. The question is if the advantages outweigh the disadvantages, whether there is hope that things will improve, and even if one will be able to make a difference.

(Ms Farida Pangan is the research and OD officer of Ateneo CORD. For feedback on this article please contact ateneocord@admu.edu.ph.)

Breakthroughs can happen in a breakdown

By Tita D. Puangco

Advice FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

AFTER hearing the State of the Nation address of President Macapagal-Arroyo, my family and I have decided to migrate to Australia. I pity the Filipino people, being taken once again for a ride. I can already predict that nothing will happen to this country. Graft and corruption will continue and grow because people are not held accountable for their actions. Are you still optimistic? What is our hope of developing leaders with integrity? How can we cut this vicious cycle of poverty and underdevelopment? For me, what can ensure the future of my children is to leave this country and contribute my talents somewhere else where I don't have to worry. Goodbye 'Pinas!

Total Frustration

You have decided to give up on our country. I respect your decision to migrate. From your letter, I can glean that you have thought long and hard about the decision. Every family, when they make life-changing decisions, considers the consequences of their actions. Surely, the benefits of migration in your perception outweigh the pains.

I am sad. I read an e-mail written by a Korean making an observation of our country. He mentioned the main reason we are in this state of underdevelopment is our lack of love for our country. We are not lacking in talent or resources or intelligence.

Uncovering the truth

Now, how can we love our country through this political crisis? First, believe that the truth will set us free. We have to discover the truth about the May 2004 elections. We have to be vigilant and keep watch as the processes unfold. With the truth commission, the impeachment process and the electoral protest of vice presidential candidate Loren Legarda (asking for a recount of her votes in a number of provinces), we should be able to come out with the truth.

The process has to respect the truth, be more objective rather than subjective, and distill the facts from the emotions. At the frontline of this process, there should be neither administration nor opposition; rather, it should be the Filipino people wanting and desiring to uncover the truth. Let us move towards a politics of unity. I am sure President Macapagal-Arroyo and other elected officials want to know if they truly won.

What we should guard against is our *ningas cogon* attitude, which makes us easily lose steam. The other is our defeatist attitude, giving up easily in the face of adversity. We have to be patient and contribute to the process where we can. Let us have media keep watch but without fanning emotions, so that our legislators or the commission or the electoral tribunal can do their work.

Why do I say the truth will set us free? Let us look at what happened in South Africa. The Tutu Commission did its job and confronted the truth about what happened in the past. Only then did the country move forward to become truly free and prosperous. Apartheid was an even tougher issue but the South Africans conquered.

Breakthrough in crisis

I believe that this major breakdown of a political crisis can be a breakthrough. It can be a breakthrough towards a movement of integrity and honesty in public service. It can be a breakthrough in our "casually corrupt" paradigm and drive the point that cheating does not pay. It can be a breakthrough in our confidence that we can govern ourselves as a nation responsibly. It can be a dramatic change in the way politics and leadership can develop in our country.

What I propose is for the truth commission to be composed of people with a reputation of integrity. To truly create breakthroughs, the commission must investigate the entire May 2004 elections, including the local government elections. For a flawed national election necessarily mirrors a faulty local election. If we view the total electoral process, then we can spot where the cheating happens and why and how it happens. An independent truth commission can give rewards to whistle-blowers. Anyone who has information and proof of cheating in the past elections can come forward and testify properly protected and get a reward according to the value of the information. My bet is the truth will come out sooner than later.

Learn from the past

For the impeachment process, I suggest that we learn from the past Estrada impeachment process. We hope our legislators complete the process and come out with a clear verdict. Let the proceedings happen with a minimum of grandstanding and intimidation of witnesses. Let us pursue impeachment as part of the democratic learning process but without damaging the economy or creating deep disunity amongst parties.

Finally, let us ensure a nonpartisan electoral tribunal that will work with efficiency in addressing the protest of Legarda. When we are able to confront the truth, then we can move to address the tougher problems of poverty and underdevelopment. Now is the time for us to confront the enemies—ourselves—who have tolerated and accepted that cheating and dishonesty is part of our culture. Let us seize these three opportunities and together move towards a breakthrough.

The holding of the constitutional assembly or convention cannot replace mechanisms for finding out the truth. A change in structure cannot give our leaders the moral compass to lead with character and competence. Let it happen after we discover and become accountable for the truth. So let us search our hearts, how much do we truly love our country?

(Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through e-mail to advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*

More call center jobs to open in last quarter of year

By Candy G. Villanueva
Contributor

WITH the current political turmoil, many Filipino professionals are losing hope and considering packing up. However, it may not be hopeless yet—many multinational companies are still coming in to invest. Many multinational corporations are making the country number one on their list for offshore businesses because of low costs and high quality of service that the Philippines has to offer.

For these reasons, JP Morgan, a global financial services firm, recently reaffirmed its commitment to the Philippines with the announcement of senior management changes, plans to reopen a local equities brokerage business and the establishment of an operations center to support its US credit card operations.

JP Morgan is known and trusted all over the world for asset and wealth management, card services, commercial banking, investment banking, retail financial services and treasury and security services. For over 40 years, JP Morgan has built a strong presence in Asia and has a large network of offices in South Asia including Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines. It aims to play a key role in shaping the history of South Asia's major corporations and is committed to helping emerging corporations.

In line with its goals, the company is reviving its brokerage activities in the Philippines and is now in the process of setting up a business process-outsourcing firm to compliment contracts the company has with third party suppliers in the Philippines and support its US credit card operations.

"The center, which will begin operating later this year, will consist of a combination of activities that includes call center and support functions for the US business," discloses Frederic DyBuncio of JP Morgan. DyBuncio was recently appointed senior country officer by JP Morgan for the Philippines.

With DyBuncio's expertise on Asian business, JP Morgan believes that they made a wise choice in assigning DyBuncio to head the company's operations in the Philippines. Before JP Morgan, DyBuncio has taken assumed credit, business origination and management positions in New York, Seoul, Bangkok and Hong Kong. In New York, he was responsible for relationships with the US subsidiaries of Japanese corporations. In Seoul, he managed relationships with all financial institutions and foreign multinationals. Up in Bangkok, he was the country manager of Chemical Bank in Thailand and in Hong Kong, he was head of sovereigns and emerging markets within the Asia Debt Capital Markets Group.

With DyBuncio steering the wheel, JP Morgan hopes to get a head start on the operations in the last quarter of the year. This is good news for the thousands of jobseekers who are aspiring for a place in the call center boom. "At the moment, we envisage around 300 employees being part of the call center as the first phase in Q4 this year with additional growth in 2006," shares the senior country officer. Named as Urban Bankers Coalition Financial Institution of the year, JP Morgan is committed to providing equal opportunity and affirmative action.

Now providing opportunities for the Filipinos, JP Morgan believes that the Philippines has a highly skilled workforce and has proven to be a successful location for customer service oriented functions. "We have had tremendous success with our third party relationships. Add our commitment to growing our business in the Philippines, you can see why this is the ideal country for us to establish our customer care center," says DyBuncio without hesitation.

JP Morgan considers the current political scandals hounding the government as a minor disruption that will not hinder their plans for diversification. "JP Morgan has had a presence in the Philippines for over 40 years and is committed to the country over the long term. We have had a number of third party suppliers providing call center support for our US card operations and to date, the customer feedback has been very positive."

The company also recently received approval to reactivate their presence in the equities market. This enables JP Morgan to provide securities services to local institutions and improve access to the Philippine equity market for JP Morgan's regional clients. JP Morgan now provides one of the few fully integrated platforms, that is, incorporating investment banking, commercial banking, treasury and security services, and equity sales, research and trading.

(E-mail feedback to candyvillanueva-@pldtdsl.net)

Embrace the mess and neatness of a working mom's life

WORKING MOM
An Mercado Alcantara

I HAD only 15 minutes to prepare for an unexpected guest. My home was a mess: I had my project papers piled up on every chair in my tiny living room, and my son's toys were strewn over every inch of floor space. I was horrified to have my friend walk into such a state (what would she say?!?). So I did what any sensible working mom would do, I scooped up the mess, threw them into my bedroom and firmly shut the door behind me. I then quickly dimmed the lights and switched on lamps (to draw attention away from dusty corners) and put on Brazilian music and a pot of coffee (creating a Starbucks ambiance).

Three-year-old Diego relished the transformation: he scooped up his own share of toys, threw them behind the bedroom door, and clapped with glee when I lit up some candles. "It's beautiful, Momsie!" he said. I gave myself a pat on the back and then carried Diego outside to meet our guest in the driveway. This was my final trick. If Diego charmed my guest even before she entered our home, she would pay no attention to the crayon scribbling on the wall, the animal stickers on the doors, and the tattered throw pillows.

Diego played his role to the hilt. He called my guest by name, hugged and kissed her, engaged her in conversation, and then took her hand to lead her into our home. Everything went as planned, my guest loved the music and the smell of coffee, and congratulated me for keeping such a neat house. And then, before I could catch him, Diego went straight for our bedroom door, threw it open, pointed to the mess behind it and said: "Surprise!"

The secret was out.

We all had a good laugh about it, including Diego who stomped his feet and clapped his hands. He made me think of the great lengths we go into to cover up the inevitable imperfections of being a working mom. Because we try to balance so much, inevitably there will be a lot we will simply allow to drop. Yet, we won't forgive ourselves for it, we focus on looking good, on presenting perfection, instead of simply accepting that balance means learning to drop and pick up again, learning to scoop up the mess and putting them away temporarily until you can deal with them. While I was willing to show only the pretty side of balance, Diego was willing to show the whole picture. Again, I have much to learn from him.

For every neat room in our lives, there will always be a messy room—a part of ourselves we've put on hold for a while to deal with what we must deal with now. To deny the presence of that would be to cheat ourselves out of the balance. If you're in the messy room of your balancing act now, when all you can be present to are the many things you let slide, left unfinished, did half-hearted to keep the other balls of your life up in the air, be quick to forgive yourself. Laugh at the mess, clap your hands and cheer at the surprise. It's the first step to moving back into the clean room.

(An Mercado Alcantara is founding editor of Working Mom magazine. Get more tips about work-life balance in this month's issue with Dawn Zulueta on the cover.)

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LAS PIÑAS

P1.1M 2STRY 2BR 8054686

MAKATI

Lots, H&L C5 nr Fort
1.2M-11M Nr McKinley Hills 4-5br
10% DP or 3Yrs No Int or No DP
10mins Fr. Ayala 0917-8313226

MKTI VILLAGES SPECIALIST
Furn / Unfurn 0918-9392979

MANILA

NEAR ST. SCHO BnewThse/3sty
/3br/mdsrm/3-4tb/1-2grge/ P3.965M
Tel 8903461 loc 34,33 & 32

MARIKINA

Bnew 4br3tb jacuzi 3M 9487112

Provident Vll nr Ateneo 413m²
P5M neg 413m² w/3hes nr gate
Rush 9488240/9338423

PROVIDENT VILL nr ATENEO
3rd lot gate ent 301m² Rush
2.2M 9486240; 09178529400

PARAÑAQUE

Verdant T-house Hse & Lot No
DP 26T/mo 0927 2805153

PASIG

C / Grande FA308 5BR 5TB
P5.58M T-9015179 / 9153842

OTHER AREAS

BRAND NEW H&L 1M-25M
Daily 10am-7pm 842-1914
842-9570 • 0915-8260255

CAVITE

MOLINO 500k 09187141462

Nr SM Dasma 681K 5208410

LAGUNA

Laguna Bel-Air Sta Rosa
Low D/P Price Range P1.3M to
2M Edna 0917-8312369
Mariel 0917-6215864

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.3M C5 Nr The Fort
12T/mo. or 4Yrs. No Int. or
10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR
15min Fr Mktl 0917-8169849

1.3M RESORT-TYPE nr Mktl
2-4BR 12T/mo or No DP or 0%
1st Class • Boss 0917-5234223

P1.3M nr. Fort & Makati
2-4BR Fully Secured
5K M/A 10%DP to Move-in
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MAKATI/MANILA CONDO
SALE/RENT 0920-2403601

Makati/Mla RFO CONDO BNEW
Sale/ Rent 09176286516

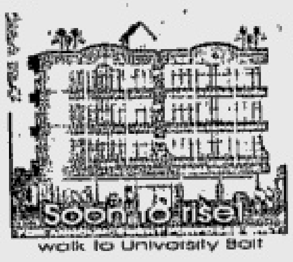
Oriental Gardens Makati 45.5m²
2.7&up Roselyn 0920-3843992

PASEO PARKVIEW Specialist
Furn / Unfurn 0918-9392979

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

VARIED AREAS



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MANILA

40SQM CONDO COMML 1.2M
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09165258580 / 09175020168

Pre-Sell Roxas Blvd 2007
No DP 40K/mo. or 20%DP 23K/mo
Bay Garden 09176104678

MANDALUYONG

MANDALUYONG NR SHAW
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br,3-4tb,mdsrm/1-2grge
P3.645M up 8903461 loc 34,33 & 32

RESIDENTIAL, COMM'L, OFFICE
UNITS (Sale/Rent)09192189817

PASIG

STDO 32sqm RENT 13T SALE 2M
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P540T Up/Unit 30,60,90 SQM
P5,006 up/mo (PAGIBIG)
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P 3.5M, 2car grge.4BR,4T&B
439-1995 0920-9020858

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QUEZON CITY

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nr UP Ateneo 204 to 408m²
P8,500/m² 0918-9235216★

MEMORIAL LOT

4 Loyola Mrkna/Lot 8318562

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

TAGAYTAY 9Tm² P500/m² 09272107234

FACTORY/WHSE

COMM'L/IND'L WHSE & LOT
10,193m² QC 4563243

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

MANILA

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Mercedes St Ermita Manila
#09164336866/75-80 SQM

HOUSE

ALABANG

141 Batangas West
Ayala Alabang 5BR 5TB
w/s-pool 0926-7102225

CONDO/TWNHSE

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BAYVIEW 09178920682

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APARTMENT

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1BR & 2BR nr. P. Gil 5634007/5891978

PASAY

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PRIME LOT 4 LEASE GOOD 4
GAS OR BUS STATION CAPI-
HAN SAN RAFAEL BUL AREA
1.3H 2448948 2318973

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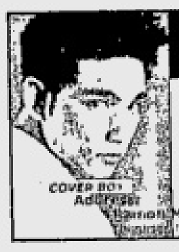

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Single Bed T897-3770

RESORT LEASE/ RENT

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BUSINESS . DOCTOR 524-3197

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LAS PINAS 8054326 / 6342
QUEZON CITY 3730239-40
CAINTA/PASIG 2401300/3500

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

HOUSE & LOT

MANILA

3-STOREY HOUSE 4 SALE
2.4M OR RENT 10T A. LINAO
PACO 5237361 - HERMAN

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

BMW

OCT 02 BMW 316I WHITE I/O
P1.285M A/T 20TKM 7471056

MITSUBISHI

RUSH SALE!97 Galant
260K Neg 0920-9120176

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

MARIAN CARS•VANS•BRDAL 8969956•8957247

Cheap Van 9330311;9349411

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

RENT-A-VAN 6424405

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1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1Hour Car Loan 9153460
2%w/o taking car 6560140

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 6966630/33

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DOG TRAINER 0919-7219020

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation & Communications
Maritime Industry Authority
National Capital Region
5th Flr., Champ Bldg., Anda Circle, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila

RE : Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate a liner service for the carriage of passengers only with the use of the ship, MV LAGOON EXPLORER, under a deregulated schedule of trips and rates pursuant to Republic Act No. 9295 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

CRUISE & HOTEL CENTER, INC.
Applicant.
x-------------------------x

CASE NO. NCR-05-089

ORDER

This refers to the Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) filed by Applicant on 12 July 2005 to operate the MV LAGOON EXPLORER, under the following route and type of service:

Name of Ship	Area of Operation	Service to be offered
MV LAGOON EXPLORER	Coron, Palawan to El Nido, Palawan and to any point in Palawan, including the Calamian Islands	For the carriage of passengers/divers, local and foreign tourists

The Applicant shall cause the publication of this Order once in any of the five (5) major newspapers of national circulation in the Philippines or in a newspaper of local circulation, as applicable.

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships, Applicant premises, passenger terminal/s and ticketing offices, as applicable.

The Applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on 04 August 2005 at 2:30 pm at the Domestic Shipping Services Division, 5th FLoor, Champ Building, Anda Circle, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila, which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting.

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE), afterwhich, the application is deemed submitted for resolution/decision, upon acceptance of such FOE and declaration that the case is submitted for decision.

WITNESS, the Honorable Administrator, VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR., this 14th day of July 2005 at Manila, Philippines.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADMINISTRATOR:
(Sgd.) ROBERTO C. ARCEO, CESO V
Director

Copy Furnished
Applicant, No. 20/F Trafalgar Plaza, H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
MISO
(PDI–August 3, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cebu
Office of the Mayor
Santander, Cebu

NOTICE / INVITATION TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that the office of the Mayor of the Municipality of Santander, Santander, Cebu has received an Unsolicited Proposal from Termilink Inc., 32 A Rainbow Village, Kinasang-an, Pardo, Cebu City for the Construction of Passenger Terminal and a High and Low Ramp Docking Facility for Roro Vessels at the Santander Municipal Wharf, located at Talisay, Santander, Cebu. Copy of the said proposal is available at the Office of the Municipal Mayor, Santander, Cebu.

The said wharf was the subject matter of Civil Case No. OS-02-97 entitled "Municipality of Santander, Cebu vs. Spouses Crisologo and Priscilla Abines," decided by the Regional Trial Court, Branch 62, Oslob, Cebu in favor of the Municipality of Santander, Cebu which decision was appealed before the Court of Appeals nineteenth (19th) Division and docketed therein as Case No. CA G.R. CV No. 81584.

Relative thereto, any and all persons interested in the said undertaking are hereby INVITED to submit their COMPARATIVE and COMPETITIVE PROPOSALS to the Office of the Mayor Santander, Cebu within fifteen (15) days from August 17, 2005, the date of the last publication of this Notice/Invitation, or until September 1, 2005.

All proposals relative to the said undertaking will be evaluated by the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) on September 2, 2005 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the Santander Municipal Session Hall, Santander, Cebu.

(Sgd.) WILSON S. WENCESLAO
Municipal Mayor

(PDI – August 3, 10 & 17, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT
Northern Mindanao
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. No. (088) 858-7123; 2332306; 3504325; 726476

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Center for Health Development – Northern Mindanao, Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City, is inviting registered caterers, hotel and restaurant operators and service-providers or contractors, Printing Shops and Medical and Laboratory Reagents Suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following items.

Category	Approved Budget Cost
1. Catering Service (live-out activities in Cag. De Oro City)	P 651,950.00
2. Board and Lodging (live-in activities in Cag. De Oro City)	170,100.00
3. Printing/Reproduction of IEC Materials	276,397.00
4. Medical & Laboratory Supplies, Materials and Reagents	813,350.60

Prospective bidders should possess valid and approved licenses and permits in their line of business with local authorities and should pass non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria in the Eligibility Checking. Only eligible bidders will be issued official bid form upon payment of a non refundable cost of P50.00

Bidding Process	Schedule	
	Category 1,2 & 3	Category 4
Suppliers/Contractors submission of documents and eligibility checking	July 29 to Aug. 8, 2005	August 16 to 26, 2005
Pre-Bidding Conference	July 29, 2005, 9:00 AM CHD Conference Room	August 19, 2005; 9:00 AM CHD Conference Room
Opening of Bids	August 9, 2005, 9:00 AM CHD Conference Room	August 30, 2005, 9:00 AM CHD Conference Room
Bid Evaluation	August 11-12, 2005	September 7-9, 2005
Release of Notice of Award	August 26, 2005	September 23, 2005

The Director IV of the DOH-CHD Northern Mindanao, Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City, reserve the right to waive any defect or informality in the offers of bids, and rejects any or all bid proposal that may be deemed disadvantageous to the government.

For further information, please inquire from the Bids and Awards Committee, or its Secretariat at telephone no. 350-4325 / 726476 / 233-2306; or visit our website at www.chd10.doh.gov.ph or email us at chd_cdo@yahoo.com

July 22, 2005

(Sgd.) JULITO C. SABORNIDO, Jr., MD, MPH
OIC-Director

(PDI–July 27 & Aug. 3, 2005)

Northern Samar Electric Cooperative, Inc.
NORSAMELCO
Brgy. Magsaysay, Bobon, Northern Samar
MOBILE: (0917) 3619744 • E-mail: Norsamelco@yahoo.com • FAX (055) 251-8163

INVITATION TO A PRE-QUALIFICATION CONFERENCE AND SEALED BIDDING

The Northern Samar Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NORSAMELCO) has received a subsidy from the National Electrification Administration (NEA). The proceed of subsidy is for construction of line under the Rural Electrification Program.

Interested parties are hereby invited to a PRE-QUALIFICATION CONFERENCE and SEALED BIDDING for supply of hereunder mention project:

Project	Construction of distribution line for 9 barangays
Location	NORSAMELCO coverage area
Contract	Supply of Materials / Labor
Amount	Php 5.1M
Pre-Bid Conference	August 8, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. Norsamelco main office
Opening of Bids	August 19, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. Norsamelco main office

Bid forms will be issued uon payment of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 1,500.00) non-refundable after a Pre-Bid conference.

Only qualified bidders who were present during the pre-qualification conference will be allowed to participate in the bidding.

Opening of bids will be on August 15, 2005. Bid Security equivalent must accompany sealed bid to 5% of the total bid price in an acceptable form.

The Northern Samar Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NORSAMELCO) hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein, and to accept such bids as may be deemed most advantageous to NORSAMELCO.

(Sgd.) HENRY C. BANJAWAN
Chairman

Noted:
(Sgd.) SALVADOR G. HERNANDEZ
General Manager
(PDI - August 2, 3 & 4, 2005)

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- Safety Officers
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- Carpenter Foremen
- Scaffolding Foremen
- Autocad Draughtsman
- X-Steel Autocad Draughtsman
- Foremen/Supervisors
- Laboratory Technicians
- Mobile Crane Operators
- Computer Operators
- Heavy Duty Truck Drivers
- Heavy Equipment Drivers
- Heavy Equipment Mechanics
- Heavy Equipment Electricians
- Male Secretaries
- Light Duty Drivers
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- Tower Crane Mechanics
- Tower Crane Engineers
- Tower Crane Foremen
- A/C Mechanics
- Diesel Mechanics
- General Foremen
- Mason Foremen

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- Computer Systems Specialists
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- Hazop Engineers
- Environmental Engineers
- Inspection / Corrosion Engineers
- Occupational Engineer / Specialist
- Operation / Planning / Process Engineers

Heston have also been successful on a number of Projects and are expanding their Operations to include the following industries. Applications welcome in any discipline with over 5 years of relevant industry experience:

UPSTREAM OIL & GAS PROJECTS
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DOWNSTREAM AMMONIA PLANT
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POWER & WATER PLANT
Power plant including Distillation / Desalination

MARINE / SUPPORT OPERATIONS
Construction, Engineering and operation

BAHRAIN PROJECT

B-0140 - MECHANICAL DESIGN ENGINEER
- BS Mechanical Engineering
- 10 years in Oil & Gas Production Field

B-0150 - INSPECTION ENGINEER
- BS Mechanical Engineering
- 15 years in Oil & Gas Equipment Inspection

B-0151 - MECHANICAL CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
- BS Mechanical Engineering
- 15 years in Oil & Gas Equipment Inspection

B-0152 - MECHANICAL DRAFTSMAN
- BS Mechanical Engineering
- 8 years in Oil & Gas Industry

B-0153 - AUTOCAD DRAFTSMAN
- BS Mechanical Engineering
- 5 years in Oil & Gas Industry

UAE PROJECT

UAE-0400 - MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN
- BS Mechanical Engineering
- 10 years in Rotating Equipment Maintenance and at least 5 years in Oil & Gas Company

UAE-0401 - ASST. MECHANICAL SECTION HEAD
- BS Mechanical Engineering
- at least 10 years in Mechanical Rotating/Static Equipment (gas, turbine, composer, pumps, etc)

UAE-0402 - LOG ANALYST
- BS Geology
- 8 years in well-site geology, sub-surface geology, loggin operation, interpretation and computer usage.

UAE-0403 - DCS SYSTEMS ENGINEER
- BS / DCS System Engineering
- 9 years in Oil & Gas Industry

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UAE-0396 - Senior IT Architect • HRC-0204 - CAD Technician

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719 M.J. Cuenco Avenue, Cebu City

POEA Davao City
Aug 11-12, 2005 (Thur & Fri)
Regional Center for Mindanao, 2nd Floor AMYA II Bldg.
Quimpo Boulevard cr. Tulip Drive, Davao City

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Kidapawan City 9400
☎ Tel. No. (064) 278-4009; Fax: (064) 278-4252
E-mail: starcom@philcom.ph

NOTICE OF VACANT POSITIONS

STARCM is a special Project of the Government of the Philippines funded by the European Union and implemented by the Department of Land Reform (DLR). The Project provides support for the development of agrarian reform communities in the provinces of Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur. The Project is seeking to fill the following positions with duty station at the Project Management Office in Kidapawan City:

- **TREE CROPS SPECIALIST**

  Applicants should have a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture or a closely related discipline. Must have at least five (5) years work experience with fruit and other perrenial crops and of working with subsistence farmers in difficult conditions. Have proven ability to prepare and analyze project proposals. Experience with advocacy for environment-friendly practices will be an advantage.

- **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST**

  Applicants should have a Master's Degree in Business Administration, Economics, Enterprise Development or a closely related discipline. He/she will have at least five (5) years commercial experience on small businesses and be familiar with the preparation of financial projections and marketing plans. S/he must have a clear understanding of business principles and should have applied them to small and/or medium-sized enterprises. Experience with successful cooperative business ventures will be a distinct advantage.

The specialists must be physically fit, prepared to undertake fieldwork throughout Central Mindanao, and know how to drive a motorcycle. They must be fluent in English and highly proficient with MS Office software.

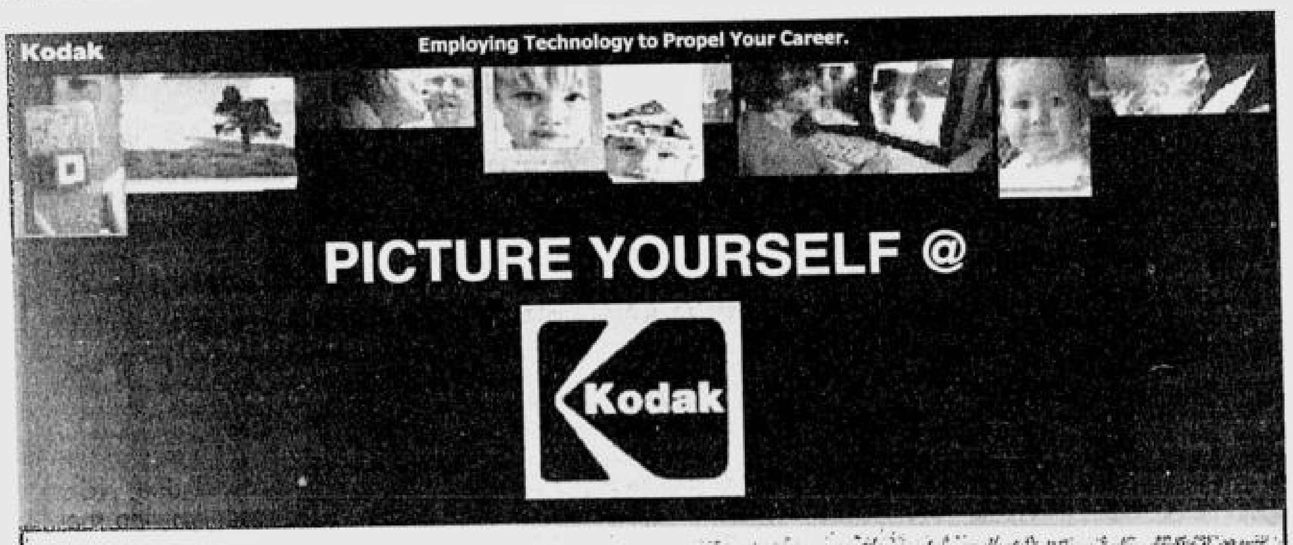
Only shortlisted applicants will be notified. Deadline for the submission of applications is on 15 August 2005.

(Sgd.) **GLYNN P. BAKER**
European Co-Director

(Sgd.) **OSCAR A. MAMA**
National Project Director

An application letter, including a resumé detailing duties, responsibilities and relevant experience, and a copy of transcript of records should be submitted to:

The Project Co-Directors
STARCM Project Management Office
3/F ROMA Building, Quezon Boulevard
9400 Kidapawan City



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AUCTION SALE

MARA PAWNSHOP BR of 2230 M. Roxas St. Sta Ana Manila Auction Sale on Aug. 13, 2005, Sat. at 2:30 in the afternoon. Respectively, Mar. 15 Apr. 13,2005 SONS of J. LANUZA, Auctioneer [illegible]

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

MARA PAWNSHOP
I, II, III, IV and Comembo Br. of Makati City. AUCTION SALE on AUG. 13, 2005, Sat. at 10:30 11:00, 12:30, and 8:30 in the morning and on the afternoon. Respectively Mar. 15 - Apr. 13 2005.
Sons of J. Lanuza, Auctioneer [illegible]

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

NATION Pawnshop, Inc.
Pob Meyc Bulacan will auction unredeemed pledges of FEB. '05 on AUG 24, '05 10am - *Lanuza & Sons*
(PDI AUG 3 2005)

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Notice is given that 1600 GLOBE MACKAY A Stock Cert. # 77194 issued to FE LEANO has been lost. If no contest is received new cert. will be issue [illegible]

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Support to Agrarian Reform Communities in Central Mindanao (STARCM) intends to award a supply contract for Fifty Five (55) units Desktop Computer and Six (6) units Notebook Computer to its Project Management Office in Kidapawan City with financial assistance from the ALA programme of the European Communities. The tender dossier is available from STARCM-PMO, 3rd Floor, ROMA Building, Quezon Boulevar Kidapawan City. Tel. (064) 278-4009; Fax: (064) 278-4252; E-mail: starcm@philcom.ph. The deadline for submission of tenders is 17:00H August 31 2005.

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late PANFILO M. ABENOJAR has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs on July 23, 2005 before Pacifico A. Tunac, Notary Public in and for Quezon City as per Doc. No. 55, Page No.12, Book XIX, Series of 2005 (PDI-July 27, Aug. 3, & 10, 2005)

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Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.

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John 3:16

The Management and Staff of

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wish to extend their deepest sympathies to the family of

CATALINA RUEDA MERCADO

Born on April 06, 1921
Died on July 30, 2005

Peacefully joined our Creator and
her husband, Jose M. Mercado, Sr.
on Saturday, the 30th of July, 2003
at the age of 84.

Her remains lie in state at
LOYOLA Marikina Chapel 4, Marikina City.
Interment will be on Thursday,
August 04 at 10:00 a.m.

Lourdes Mendoza Mendiola

Of Catbalogan, Samar

peacefully joined her Creator on July 31, 2005 at the age of 85.

Her beloved husband **Perfecto, Jr.** (†); children **Jun** and **Netnet (Eusebio)**, **Arce** and **Minda (Campos)**, **Rolly** and **Thelma (Aberin)**, **Linda** and **Ding (De Borja)**, **Eddie** and **Susan (Posadas)**, **Edwin**, **Lilibeth** and **Rey (Reyes)**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, sisters, brother, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state La Funeraria Paz, Inc. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Friday, August 5, 2005 at Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

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IRMA RAMIREZ PARUNGAO-LLAGAS

peacefully joined our Lord on 31 July 2005
at the age of 73 in Chula Vista, California.

Her loving family, husband **Antonio**; children **Marilyn & Rolan**, **Jocelyn & Edgardo**, **Ricardo & Gloria**, **Alfred & Letty**, **Annabel & Vern**, **Prospero & Lou**, **Grace & Jun**, **Agnes & Aaron** request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be on Friday at Glenn Abbey Memorial Park, Bonita, CA.

CLASSIFIEDS

ROFG at CCP for 'Noon Po Sa Amin'

FOR its 2005 season opener, the Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group, resident folk dance company of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) mounted an armchair travelogue of Philippine history through songs, music and dance, entitled "Noon Po sa Amin", last July 29 to 31 at the Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (Main Theater). "Noon Po Sa Amin" assured students of history, sociology, anthropology and related subjects a clear and truthful interpretation of our history and our past.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION
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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC), thru its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for Manpower Services covering the period September 2005 to February 2006 for an approved budget of P5.58 million. Relevant information and schedule of events are presented below:

Number of Manpower Requirement for PDIC Chino Roces & Ayala Extension Offices	85 contractual personnel
Minimum Requirements	Bidder shall have at least three (3) yrs. experience in providing manpower services to government agency/ies or institution/s and bank/s or financial institution/s and employing at least 100 contractual personnel. Manpower services should not include maintenance, security and janitorial services in the three-year experience requirement.
Source of Funding	2005 Budget
Availability of Instructions to Bidders	Starting August 03, 2005 8:00am – 5:00pm 9th Floor, SSS Building, 6782 , Ayala Ave. cor. Rufino St., Makati City
Pre-bid Conference	August 12, 2005 - 9:00am Ground Floor, PDIC Building, 2228 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City
Deadline for the Submission of Eligibility, Technical and Financial Proposals; opening of said proposals shall follow immediately.	August 26, 2005 - Until 9:00am 9th Floor, SSS Building, 6782 , Ayala Ave. cor. Rufino St., Makati City

All particulars relative to the Eligibility Requirements/Bid Proposals and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by Republic Act 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

PDIC reserves the right to waive any informality or minor defect and to accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

PDIC shall in no case be held responsible or liable for any and all costs associated with the bidders' participation in the bidding process regardless of its results.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI - August 3, 2005)

MANILA GAS CORPORATION (MGC)
INTER-ISLAND GAS SERVICES INC. (IIGSI)

INVITATION TO PUBLIC BIDDING

MGC/IIGSI offers for sale through sealed public bidding on August 24, 2005, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the NDC Audio Visual Room, Penthouse, NCC Building, 118 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City, the following real estate properties:

1. ***Paco Properties***

The North Property is located at Sanciangco St., Paco, Manila and is composed of 3 contiguous lots:

TCT – 34304 – 2,608.20 sqm
TCT – 33924 – 2,231.40
TCT – 33924 – 7,431.20
12,270.80 sqm

The South Property is located at 1536 Paz Guazon St., Paco, Manila and is composed of 5 contiguous lots:

TCT – 39480 – 536.80 sqm
TCT – 39482 – 2,239.00
TCT – 39482 – 1,727.73
TCT – 25165 – 502.00
TCT – 25165 – 34,990.00
39,995.53 sqm

2. ***Cebu Property***

The Cebu Property is located along the Barangay Road, Barangay Opao, Mandaue City and is composed ot 2 adjoining lots:

TCT – 18998 – 2,128.00 sqm
TCT – 18999 – 9,529.00
11,657.00 sqm

Due diligence period is from August 03-23, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to be coordinated with the MGC/IIGSI Bids Committee. Interested parties may secure the Bidding Package starting August 03, 2005 from MGC c/o Ms. Ellen Paracale, 7/F NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Tel. No. 8404838 loc. 223 & 313 / Fax No. 8404862 and IIGSI c/o Mr. Charlie Villegas, 3215 District 5 Sangi, Barangay Pajo, Lapu-Lapu City. Tel. No. 032-3418874. A pre-bidding conference is scheduled on August 15, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at the NDC Audio Visual Room, Penthouse, NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City.

The sale of the above properties shall be strictly on CASH-AS-IS WHERE-IS BASIS.

MGC/IIGSI reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or to waive any of the formalities required, or to accept only such bids or portion of bids which is deemed advantageous to MGC/IIGSI.

(PDI – August 3, 4 & 5, 2005)

PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL SERVICE CONTRACTORS, INC. "ON THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE," PALSCON have just concluded the free seminar for its members on the "Power of Customer Service Excellence" held at 31st floor conference room, One San Miguel Avenue Building, Ortigas Pasig City on July 26, 2005. From the center right photo shows Ms. Lilia Linda Ang -President of PALSCON, Mr. Aristotle Chico – Training Facilitator, Mr. Rafael S. Chico – PALSCON Chairman of Education Committee and main Resource Speaker, MS. Loida T. Bautista-PALSCON Board of Director and with them are the PALSCON members' representatives.

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All-women team gives 'birth' to car

Volvo's female engineers, designers show off their own version of a 215-hp coupé to Asian writers

By Tessa R. Salazar

(First of two parts)

WOMEN have definite ly arrived. You se them playing ke roles everywhere men used t lord over. They have alread proven they could run a coun try, run a company, publis hard-hitting news dailies, pilo airplanes, jets and space shut tles, and, of course, drive me crazy.

The scientific group that conducted study and found out women could wit stand greater G-forces than men mu have meant G-forces as something mo than gravity. They must have meant "gu forces," too, because, against conve tional male chauvinist wisdom, the "be ter half" of the human species is doin things its way.

And now a group of girls have prove that they have more to show than blond hair, bodies and booties.

First time in Asia

Two of the eight-woman team from Volvo Cars of Sweden visited Malaysia early July to meet Asian journalists and present its prototype of the YCC (Your Concept Car)—Volvo's first car designed solely by female engineers and designers.

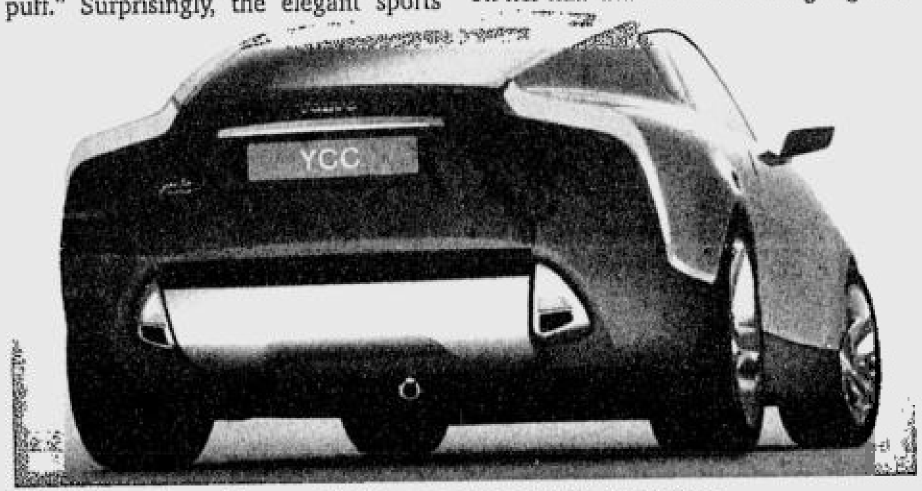
Though the prototype had already visited 20 countries in 2004, including a spot in the Geneva International Auto Show, it was the first time Volvo brought the design for exhibit in Asia. On hand to view the prototype for the first time were five Filipino motoring writers (three of them women).

The YCC looked as hefty as the Volvo S60, but it was anything but "powerpuff." Surprisingly, the elegant sports coupé revealed more muscle in an easy-clean chameleon silk paint, broad glass fastback roofline (with wide rear windows up to the end of the car with more visibility at the four corners), and gull-wing doors with drop-down sill for easy entry and exit.

During the press conference, the group announced "If you meet the expectations of women, you exceed the expectations of men," which elicited a mix of cheers and jeers from the motoring press.

'Female-focused' features

Volvo engineer Eva-Lisa Andersson, YCC project manager, and exterior car designer Anna Rosen, who has a streak on her hair that matches her light green scarf, flew all the way from Sweden to show the Asian press some of the nifty "female-focused" features of the YCC.



THE RED section of the rear light flows seamlessly into the yellow.

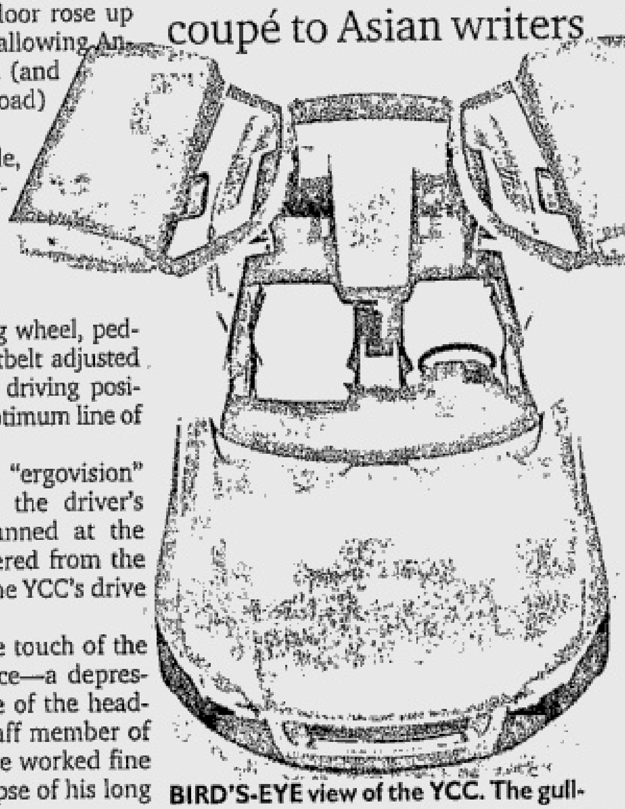
Starting her demonstration, Andersson pushed a button on the key fob and pretended to carry bags of groceries and stood near the car's gull-wing door. Automatically, the gull-wing door rose up and the sill dropped down, allowing Andersson's svelte 5' 8" frame (and the rest of her imaginary load) to enter easily.

As she entered the vehicle, the steering wheel moved forward and the driver's seat moved back to make more room for her. She then docked the key into the center console, and the steering wheel, pedals, head restraints and seatbelt adjusted to her pre-set personalized driving position, which then gave her optimum line of vision and driving comfort.

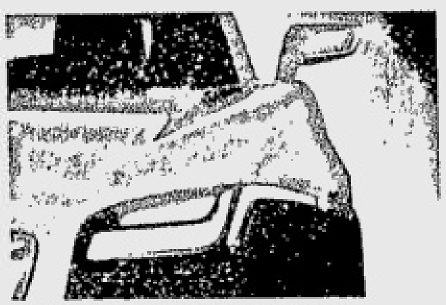
Collectively called the "ergovision" system (patent pending), the driver's body configuration is scanned at the dealer, and the data gathered from the scan is programmed into the YCC's drive and key system.

Illustrating the feminine touch of the YCC is the "ponytail" space—a depression—found at the middle of the headrest. Mind you, a male staff member of Volvo stressed, that feature worked fine for him, too. A quick glimpse of his long mane showed why.

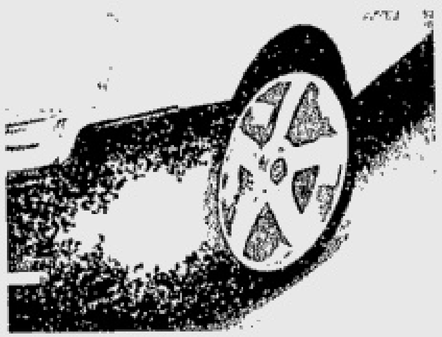
This writer forgot to ask that staff member if the pedal feature that adjusted itself to accommodate high heels also worked fine for him, as well.



BIRD'S-EYE view of the YCC. The gull-wing door opens and sill below folds down.



THE HEADLIGHT are lenses of transparent thermoplastic that project the light from banks of LEDs



YCC's tires are run flat type.

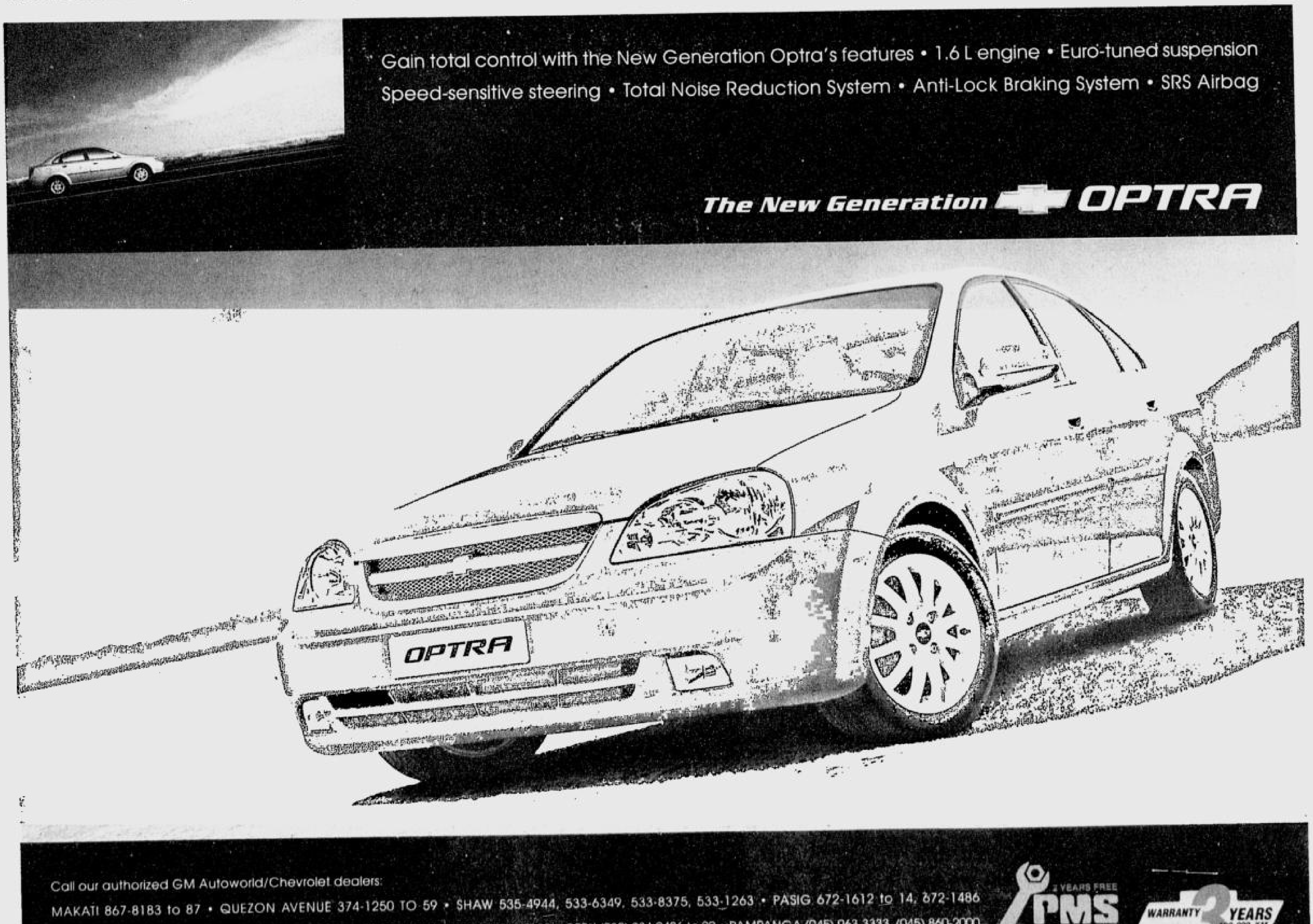
Part of 'wish list'

Another useful feature for certainly both sexes would be the "parking assist," which computes for the driver if a prospective parking space can fit the car. Furthermore, a "parallel parking assist" or "autopark" adjusts steering while the driver controls the accelerator, brakes and gearshift.

These features, the Volvo team disclosed, were added on as part of a "wish list" of both women and men in a survey conducted before designing the car. The team said the cross-sex survey would dispel misgivings that the added features were meant to serve only the concerns of female drivers.

Andersson and Rosen cited studies showing women and men encountering the same problems with parking. Although the studies showed men had a harder time admitting they encountered parking problems, while women were more honest in sharing their own parking problems. Parking patterns of men and women did reveal that women parked more often than men did.

"Men drive to work and park, drive home and park again. A woman passes the florist, she goes shopping, she picks up children, then she's at work. She's out for lunch, goes to the hairdresser, goes to the day-care and then she's home. So women park more," she said.



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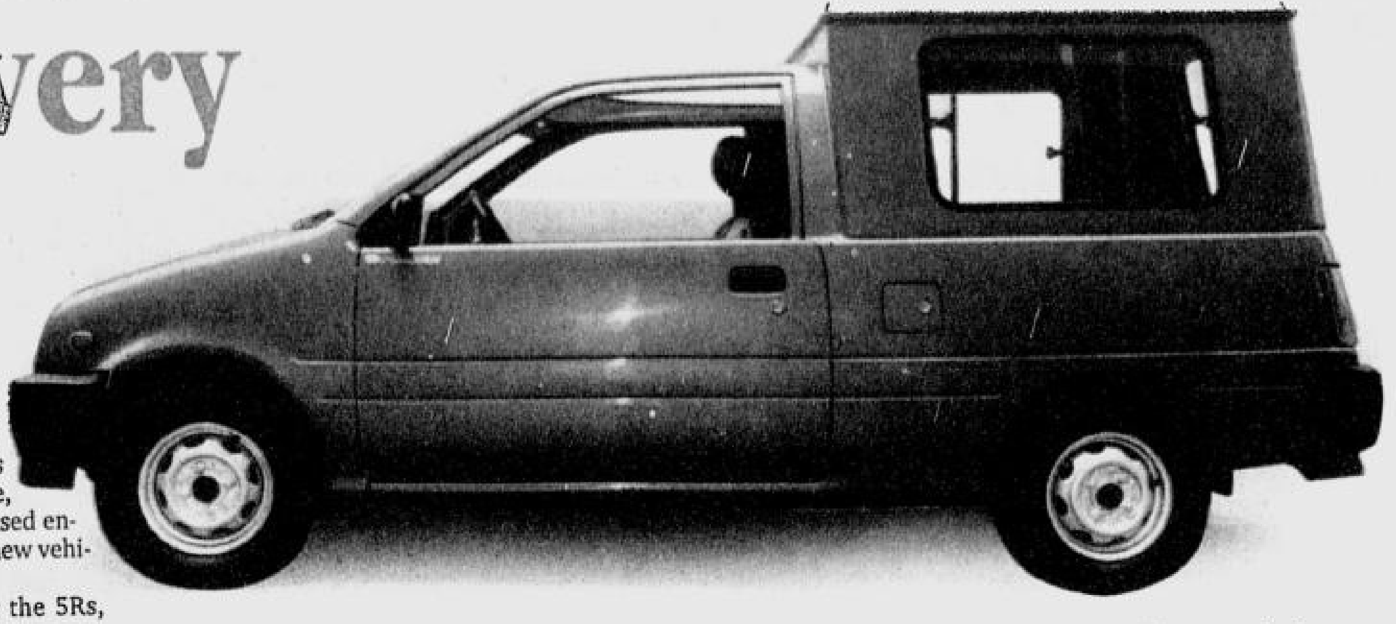


THE LEGACY Van has suitable design for those who want to start a mobile variety store or mobile eatery business.

Text and photos
by Charles E. Buban

(Last of two parts)

TWO years ago, Norkis Group founder and chair Norberto Quisumbing Jr. envisioned a vehicle for the masses.

His idea was that it should be inexpensive, no-frills, fuel efficient, maintenance-friendly and because of the prevailing traffic condition, should also be something that could easily zip through traffic and squeeze into tightest parking spaces.

"But unlike a motorcycle or a tricycle, the vehicle must offer better protection from the elements," Quisumbing says.

Other means

Realizing that it would not be economical to manufacture a vehicle from ground up, Quisumbing looked for other means on how to bring about his idea.

He did not look farther than his own company since Norkis, through its affiliate Porta Coeli Industrial Co., has been bringing in semi knocked down (SKD) components of Daihatsu or Suzuki engine and components from Japan.

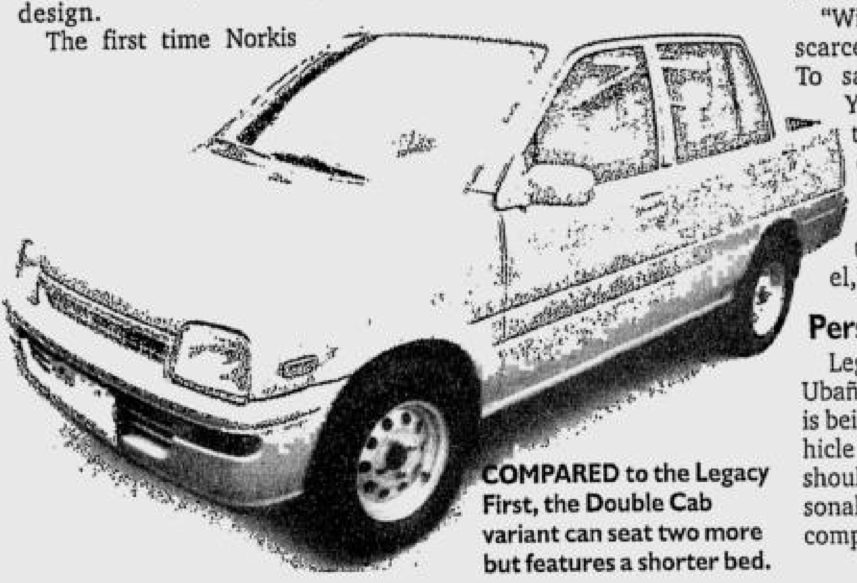
These slightly used engines and components, which are a fraction of the cost of its brand-new counterparts, are then shipped to Cebu where Norkis apply its 5Rs, short for reinvention, reengineering, reconditioning, rebuilding and recycling.

Something different

"The 5Rs simply mean doing something different or, stated another way, doing something that has not been done before. In our case, Norkis transforms these imported used engines and components into almost new vehicles," Quisumbing says.

He explains that in employing the 5Rs, Norkis' manufacturing plant in Cebu completely overhaul the engines, convert the assembly to left-hand drive configuration, recycle usable parts and put in new body design.

The first time Norkis employed the 5Rs was in 1983 when the country fell into deep financial crisis.



COMPARED to the Legacy First, the Double Cab variant can seat two more but features a shorter bed.

"With the peso devalued and dollars scarce, importation became difficult for us. To save our main business (producing Yamaha motorcycles) and avoid retrenching thousands of employees, we decided to import used Yamaha components and engines, sent them to Cebu where afterward, we came out with the much affordable Econobike model," he reveals.

Personal transport

Legacy product managing head Victor Ubaña reveals that unlike the Multicab, which is being marketed as a mass transport, the vehicle designs used for the Legacy series should appeal to individuals looking for personal transport, much like one's family or company car.

"Although we are using the same 0.660-liter engine, the Legacy body is much lighter than the Multicab," Ubaña says.

At the moment, there are three variants of the Legacy: the First (price starts at P187,000), the Double Cab (P222,000) and the Van (P232,000). The Van variant is mostly used as mobile variety *(sari-sari)* store or mobile eatery).

"The Legacy wasn't just conceived to provide families with fuel-efficient vehicles (rated at 13 to 14 km per liter on the highway, and 10 to 12 km in the city) but to also give them total freedom to move around urban centers where the vehicle is better suited," Ubaña says.

He explains that with the worsening traffic condition and continuously increasing fuel price, it would be great to drive a small vehicle, which does not waste space and consume too much fuel per kilometer.

Chasing a sunrise

CATCH MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

NIGHT drives in the Philippine countryside are always exciting propositions. These are often spur of the moment and are borne of a need to be somewhere else—sometime in the very near future. Last week, an early afternoon call came through with an invitation to drive North in the dead of night.

I could not resist the call of a nocturnal road trip, especially with the prospect of a semi-empty NLEX. The destination would be Subic Bay and its International Raceway and we needed to be there for a sunrise photo shoot.

Even the best laid plans are subject to the random nature of people's schedules and the Russian roulette conditions of Philippine roads. Sunrise was scheduled to break at around 5:15 of the next morning. By consensus, the takeoff time would be 10 p.m. from Mantrade in Makati and by our most conservative estimates, we would be settling down to a short nap in Olongapo in just over two hours.

Tight schedules

With an alarm set for half past four, we had just enough time for essential civilities: a wash, a shave and a smoke, before we got to work. It would be no vacation; our schedules would be tight but we laid our plans to be as bulletproof as Milspec Kevlar weave. It was funny, that for our trip, Fate decided to bring a bunker-busting cruise missile. Our schedule never had a chance.

Midnight caught us still in Manila hurtling down Edsa; our bodies already being fueled by nicotine, caffeine and sugar. Stimulant-wise, we needed to straddle the fine line between relaxed and alert. Too little chemical help and sleep would creep in, making the dark roads to Subic even more treacherous.

Too much assistance from our legal "uppers" and the driver's mind would have begun to skip like a pebble in the glass-surfaced darkness of the night; and once out of momentum it would begin to sink into the murky depths. A mental crash at this point would have probably resulted in a physical one as well.

In 30-odd minutes from take-off, we found ourselves already at the last service station on the North Luzon Expressway. Our car passed quietly through the fast-moving buses and trucks, quite obviously above the legal limit of speed of the immaculate tarmac and concrete.

Our driver joked that we could probably outrun the pickups that patrolled the NLEX and his statement was met by his passengers' nervous laughter. We all knew that the highway authorities had just bought some Teutonic pursuit motorcycles; any sort of imagined dramatic chase would be over in a very short amount of time.

Interesting ride

I reminisced that I consciously resisted the lure of Red Bull at the convenience store counter and spied our driver buying half a dozen; we were surely in for an interesting ride. Part of me wanted to take the wheel right at that moment since the passengers had already been joking and commenting about the current driver's road antics.

A larger part of me was just plain sleepy and on the threshold of an early stage of the sleep cycle. Our wheelman was skilled albeit a little too precise and committed in his driving. I decided that that any opportunity to snooze in the car is one that will have to be taken, as the two-hour delay in our schedule will not permit any decent amount of shut eye at our destination.

Halfway point

San Fernando is the physical and psychological halfway point of any trip to Olongapo. Our speeds began to drop below the three-digit range as we approached the tollgate. Despite our best efforts to identify and avoid the exact change lane, fatigue steered us right into it.

The person at the booth politely reminded us of the obvious: we did not have the exact fee. Not wanting a confrontation on the wrong side of midnight, we smiled and offered to leave the change.

Tire failure

The exact time eluded me, but somewhere in Lubao, Pampanga, we suffered what can only be categorized as "catastrophic tire failure." Circumstance put our front tire in contact with something it was not supposed to encounter at high speed.

The noise was spectacular and it took a while for the tire to completely disintegrate from under us. We stopped at the side of the road and instantly began to change the wheel. There was no use in getting on the driver's case as we were now all tired and all faced the prospect of a night without any sleep. More cigarettes were lit and more Red Bull drinks were consumed.

Being at the side of the road, in the predawn darkness was eerie and particularly quiet, except for the odd passing vehicle once in a while. It was a great time for reflection. It was an excellent time to remember that adventures are not extinct in the workday world. It also allowed one to take that ever important step back and assess their equally dumb and excellent luck. We could have been hurt had the road conditions changed ever so slightly,

Sunrise we raced, caught

Our vehicle began moving with the aid of a mismatched space-saving spare at about 2:15 a.m. In less than an hour, we were inside the SBMA and the rain came down in earnest—a welcome for the weary of sorts. Sleep would have completely eluded us as we spent our free hour and a half planning the next day's schedule. As our alarms went off, we drove off to our task bleary-minded, in an intermittent shower.

A wet dark grey dawn met us at the end of the Subic International Raceway's old "back straight," somewhere right before the hairpin. As light broke over the hills nestling the track, it threw orange and purple into the gloomy mottled clouds to the East. The pictures were stunning, aided in no small part by the sunrise we had just raced—and caught.

He wants the Honda hybrid now

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

A FRIEND of mine wants to become the first Filipino to own a hybrid car in the Philippines.

Next year, Honda hopes to ship the first hybrid car to the country.

"If plans push through, we will bring our hybrid car to the Philippines next year," said Takashi "TS" Sekiguchi, president of Honda Cars Philippines Inc.

"But I can't wait that long," said my friend. "I want to have it now."

"We will see," said Sekiguchi. "I will study it further."

* * *

I've driven a Toyota hybrid car in Tokyo in 2001 and 2003 and on both occasions, it was fun. The Toyota Prius, which hit American expressways in the late '90s, is an icon among hybrid cars.

It looks the same. It drives the same. The only clue that it's not an ordinary car is the fun little gauge on the dashboard that careens to the right or left every time you hit the pedals.

A hybrid car is a real environment-friendly vehicle.

It has electric motors that help squeeze every last mile out of a gallon of gasoline, sparking the gas engine to kick out less pollution.

Every company differs from its hybrid system although typically, a car uses either the engine or the motor for boosting when speed is needed most, like passing on the highway.

To varying degrees, hybrid cars switch to electric power at times when gas engines would be spewing the most smoke, so the clear-air benefit is more than what you'd get just by improving your mileage.

Although hybrids use electricity, these unique cars never need to be plugged in or recharged. They have large onboard batteries, which are recharged by other vehicle systems—even energy captured during braking gets redirected into the batteries, a process called "regenerative braking."

In America, you won't see hybrid vehicles at the gas station often, but they do need to be filled with gas.

Mileage estimates run from 60 kph to as high as 110 kph for the two-seat Honda Insight, and 120 kph for the Toyota Prius.

* * *

The main reason the hybrid cars aren't sold yet in many countries, particularly Third World nations like ours, is their prohibitive prices. Likewise, another reason is, the servicing and maintenance stations take a fortune to put up. Add the fact that skilled mechanics are needed to service hybrid cars.

"But I have faith in the Honda hybrid," said my friend, who has huge business operations in Japan. "And I want it now."

Your call, Sekiguchi-san.

* * *

Here's a glass to Chevrolet Pasig for winning the Philippine Marketing for Excellence Award, an offshoot of its garnering the most outstanding Cheverolet dealer nationwide for 2004.

"We are truly honored to receive this marketing award. This only goes to show that our dedication to provide our customers the best deals on both sales and after sales service are finally recognized. As a way of thanking our much valued customers, we are holding a fellowship night on August 12 for our much valued clients," said Chevrolet Pasig general manager Raul Evangelista.

Aside from the event's socials, body repair and paint service clinics will be provided during the fellowship night wherein customers will also get to know important tips on body repair and paint services, auto insurance, costs and availability of parts and accessories, among others.

GM car owners may call Lino Alcantara at 672-1615 or 672-1484 for other details of the event.

* * *

QUOTE ME. Drive to arrive, not to survive.

* * *

Comments to menju@pldtdsl.net.

Toyota Motor Show to feature complete vehicle lineup

TOYOTA Motor Philippines Corp. will hold an exclusive motorshow on Aug. 12-19 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City, Manila. Dubbed "The World of Toyota Motor Show," the event will showcase Toyota's complete model lineup and its latest technological advancements highlighted by the display of the Fine-N concept vehicle and the Formula One replica flown directly from Japan.

Toyota will also be offering special financing promos and will give three customers a chance to win a brand-new Vios for all transactions held within the exhibit period.

Under the theme "Inspire, Create, Innovate," the World of Toyota Motor Show will showcase the No. 1 automotive company's historical milestones, its full vehicle lineup and its future plans for new automotive possibilities. The event will also highlight the different facets of Toyota from its state-of-the-art technology, its commitment to fulfill its environmental and social responsibility, its role in the Filipino lifestyle and a partner in nation building.

Toyota value certificates

The event is made more special with the various attractions and special promos that will be offered exclusively during the event. TMP and Toyota Financial Services will be offering all customers of Camry, Altis, Vios and the Innova special Toyota Value Certificates (TVC), which can be used for financing down payment and monthly amortization. The customers can also use their TVCs to purchase vehicle accessories and vehicle insurance coverage.

THE TOYOTA F1 replica car

All Vios 1.5 buyers during the event will also automatically receive a special iPod Mini Vios limited edition. All visitors of the World of Toyota will also be able to ride and drive the Innova on a special test drive course at the event venue.

To top it all off, all customers who will purchase their brand new Toyota vehicles during the event will automatically qualify for a chance to win one of the three Vios 1.5G M/T that will be given away during the last three days of the motor show.

All motor show visitors will also have the chance to win in the hourly raffle that will be held everyday during the event.

Displays

Taking center stage at the World of Toyota Motor Show are the displays of the Toyota Fine-N concept car and the famous Toyota F1 replica car. The Fine-N is a fuel cell hybrid vehicle (FCVH) meant to shape the future of motoring. It features radical styling in a novel package and four-wheel drive using four in-wheel motors to achieve new dimensions in driving performance.

From the Toyota Motor sport base in Cologne, Germany, Toyota has participated in the pinnacle of motor racing since 2002. In 2005, Toyota brought in the TF 105 equipped with the RVX-05 V10 engine. With the Toyota drivers Jarno Trulli and Ralf Schumacher, the TF 105 has participated and will be participating in all 19 races for the 2005 season.

Complete vehicle lineup

The World of Toyota Motor Show will not be complete without its complete vehicle lineup. Dubbed as the Urban Sleek, the Vios, Altis and Camry comprise Toyota's lineup of passenger cars.

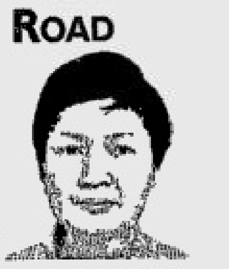
The Mobile Lifestyle showcases the Prado, Previa, Prado and Hiace. The recently concluded International Innovative Multipurpose Vehicle (IMV) Project composed of the Hilux, Innova and Fortuner will likewise be on display.

The World of Toyota Motor show will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekends from Aug. 12 to 19.

What makes the Alterra different

THE ALTERRA: Isuzu's family-oriented sport/lifestyle recreational vehicle.

ON THE ROAD



Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

WHEN ISUZU Philippines Corp. unveiled the Alterra last May, it was introduced as a sport recreational vehicle (SRV). Not a sport utility vehicle (SUV) or a sport activity vehicle (SAV), but an SRV that would alter your perception of the SUV.

Clever, Isuzu's play on words in coining the monicker Alterra: an all-terrain vehicle that would alter the way SUVs are defined. But is the Alterra really all that different from other SUVs?

The answer is both yes and no. The Alterra isn't different from, for example, the Toyota Fortuner in the sense that it is built on the platform of a pickup truck (the D-Max) just as the Fortuner has the same platform as the 2005 Hilux pickup. Incidentally, both the Alterra and the Fortuner are made in Thailand.

Not the same

But while the Fortuner is powered by the same 3.0-liter D-4D common rail direct injection (CRDi) DOHC turbo intercooler diesel engine as the '05 Hilux, the Alterra is powered by Isuzu's third-generation 3.0-liter twin cam CRDi turbo intercooler diesel engine, the I-TEQ 4JJI, which is not the same as that of the D-Max. The I-TEQ powerplant produces 146 ps/3,800 rpm max output and 30.0 kg.m/1,400–3,400 rpm max torque.

The Alterra is also different from other SUVs in terms of recreational equipment, the most prominent of which is the Surround Entertainment System (SES) consisting of an in-dash DVD head unit with a 5.1 channel digital decoder that can play DVD, VCD, CD, MP3, WMA or CD-R plus 10 speakers with tweeters, a detachable subwoofer and two headrest-mounted 5.6-inch monitors.

Sure, other luxury SUVs have DVD and TV options, but the 5.1 SES is standard equipment in the high-end Alterra 4x2 manual or automatic models. The SRP (suggested retail price) of an Alterra depends not only on its entertainment equipment, but also on its color. The top-of-the-line Alterra at P1,489,000 is the omega pearl white automatic transmission (A/T) model with the 5.1 SES. (The 4x4 D-4D A/T Fortuner's SRP, by the way, is P1,498,000.)

Family-oriented

The fancy entertainment system of the Alterra suggests that it is more of a family-oriented, lifestyle recreational vehicle than a sport utility brute with extreme off-roading capability. The Alterra's sleek profile and U-shaped façade and tail lights only hint at the macho aggressiveness that is so in-your-face confrontational in other SUVs.

But, despite the softer lines, seven-seater passenger capacity and 4x2 specs (a 4x4 version will come later this year), the Alterra is no mom mobile/minivan or crossover. The Alterra belongs to the SUV category, what with the power of its advanced CRDi engine and the strength of its truck chassis.

Reams have been written about the increased power, fuel efficiency and astoundingly quiet and smooth performance of CRDi turbo intercooler diesel engines. Since Isuzu is the acknowledged world leader in diesel engine technology, the mere fact that the Alterra is powered by Isuzu's state-of-the-art CRDi engine with Swirl Control Valve Actuator places it way ahead of its diesel SUV competitors.

Flex Ride

As the Alterra shares the same platform with the D-Max, a somewhat bouncy, jiggly ride is to be expected despite the independent double wishbones with torsion bar springs front suspension. Nonetheless, the new Flex Ride rear suspension with semi-elliptical leaf springs and telecospic shock absorbers provides a smoother, more comfortable ride for rear seat passengers than traditional leaf springs.

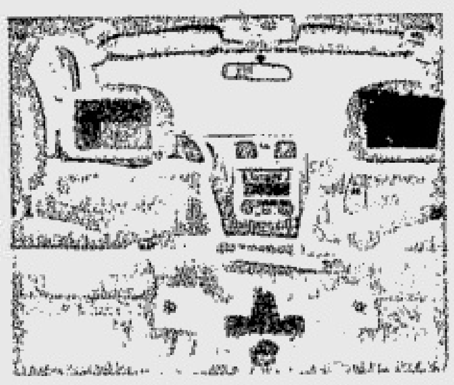
Bottom line, the Alterra is eminently capable of altering your perception of the SUV as it offers the gentler, kinder creature comforts and roominess of a limo for your family while at the same time improving on the power, sturdiness and durability that SUVs are known for.

* * *

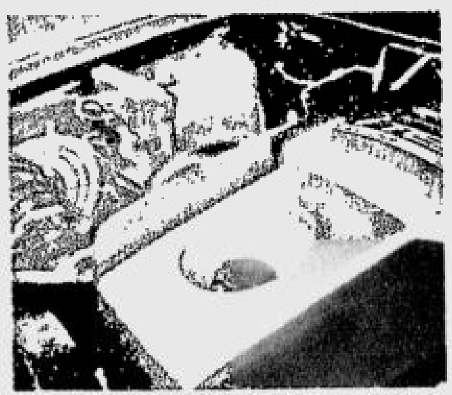
TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: The politician's credo: Honesty pays, but not enough.

* * *

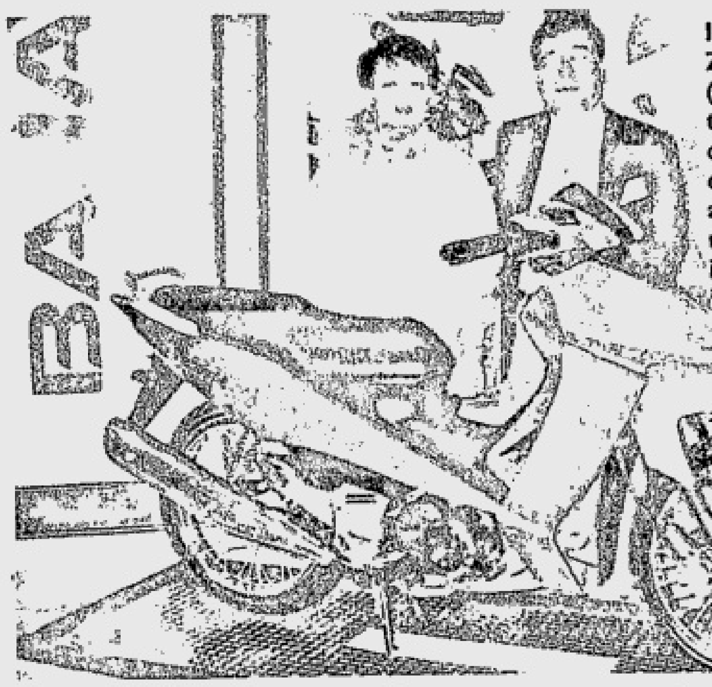
E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph.



DVD MONITORS and 11 speakers are part of the 5.1 Surround Entertainment System. PHOTOS BY: AIDA SEVILLA-MENDOZA



ISUZU'S 3rd generation 3.0-liter CRDi turbo intercooler diesel engine



IN UNVEILING the new ZX-130, KMPC's Yamaguchi (right) and Pablo believe that the Kawasaki brand has once again raised the level of innovation in quality, style and performance in underbone motorcycle industry.

Industry-first underbone motorcycle introduced

By Charles E. Buban

AT FIRST glance, you'll immediately notice that this latest Kawasaki offering is no ordinary underbone motorcycle.

A first in the industry, the fuel tank of the ZX-130 is mounted in front, behind the steering stem.

"With this new design layout, the ZX-130 rider will no longer have to dismount and open the seat where fuel tank of underbone motorcycles is typically located," explains Kawasaki Motor Philippines Corp. president Michio Yamaguchi.

He says that the rider can conveniently twist the ignition key to automatically release the dual hinge fuel lid cover located on the front fender cover.

Amply protected

"And riders don't have to worry about safety since the fuel tank is amply protected by strong members of the front frame that should be able to absorb the impact in case of collision," assures TPMC general manager for sales and marketing Rodel Pablo.

Also, with the new tank layout, the ZX-130 is able to offer a much larger under-the-seat compartment, twice than what the competition can offer.

"And these are not just the only innovations the ZX-130 feature," Pablo says.

TPS

The ZX-130's 130 cc four-stroke engine comes equipped with a Throttle Position Sensor (TPS) for exceptionally smooth throttle response: TPS adjusts the digital ignition timing in relation to throttle position for crisp and clean engine response.

"The TPS tells the ignition control unit how hard the engine is working so that its microcomputer can determine the best ignition timing for more power and better fuel economy," Pablo says.

Aside from this, the ZX-130 also features a Keihin CV-type carburetor that provides excellent fuel economy and emission control, according to Pablo.

Surpassing standards

"The ZX-130's muffler design and construction also provide better exhaust emission rating and in fact this motorcycle conforms to the Euro-1 emission standards and easily surpasses the standards set by the country's Clean Air Act," Pablo boasts.

Indeed, with all these industry firsts included in the ZX-130, KMPC is confident it is offering the market a truly superior underbone motorcycle.

"KMPC is always proud to be able to provide a higher level of innovation design-wise or performance-wise in all of its products and the new ZX-130 is no exception," Yamaguchi assures.

Motorshow 14th back at the PICC

TRADE shows and exhibits in the Philippine context are relatively new. In fact, even the country's biggest industries do not have established trade shows of their own, and only lately have there been visible signs that businesses had realized the value of putting together their collective products and services to showcase them to the world.

Against this backdrop, the automotive industry is way ahead when it comes to putting up trade shows and exhibits. The organizer of Motorshow International, the Philippine Exhibits and Themeparks Corp. or Petco, must be credited for this.

Tracing their roots

The key people behind Petco trace their roots to the now defunct Transportation Show International or Transhow, which started in 1981 as a trade fair for the growing transport industry at that time. The first Transhow covered all modes of transport—land, sea and air—and was patterned after the trade shows in the West: a no-fuss, no-frills trade exhibit participated in by local companies, airline and helicopter firms, and a few shipping lines.

It was at Transhow where Marisa Nallana, Petco president, cut her teeth. The first two years of Transhow were difficult mainly because Filipinos at that time were not really keen on trade exhibits. Sponsors were few.

Added attractions

Says Nallana: "On our third year, in an attempt to draw more public interest and attendance, we introduced special events to give the exhibit a more relaxed atmosphere. Thus were born features such as the auto exchange, the classic and vintage cars exhibits, slaloms, car clubs and so on. The added attractions proved to be big crowd drawers, and the once staid and formal auto trade exhibit had taken off."

By 1989, Nallana and company felt that the Filipino audience was mature enough for a more focused transport exhibit and organized the first Motorshow under the Petco banner that year.

"Also, we were now able to avoid the pitfalls of Transhow and trained our sights on the more viable and manageable sector of the industry—land transport," Nallana adds.

The early Motorshows attracted a few car and motorcycle assemblers, used cars traders and modified car dealers, and a lot of car parts and accessories dealers because of the depressed market for brand-new cars. Customers just wanted to upgrade their cars and not buy new ones.

Turning point

1992 was a turning point.

"'With a new administration, things started to change. Major car assemblers, who had long been watching from the sidelines, took the promise of a new economic prosperity as a signal and literally came in droves to the Motorshow. Since then, participants, exhibitors and sponsors alike have come to recognize Motorshow as the country's premier auto show," she adds.

From then on, things had been looking up for this first and foremost automobile show. Also, brand-new cars made their presence felt, supported by accessories and car parts dealers.

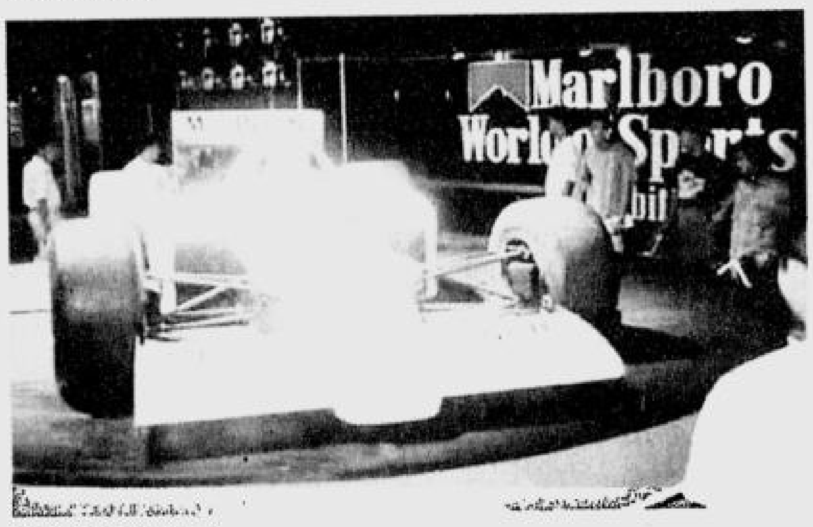
Clear indication

In 1997, Motorshow went international as a clear indication that that the local automotive industry had come of age to take on competition from giant multinational corporations which display wholly imported luxury cars, vans and sport utility vehicles during the show.

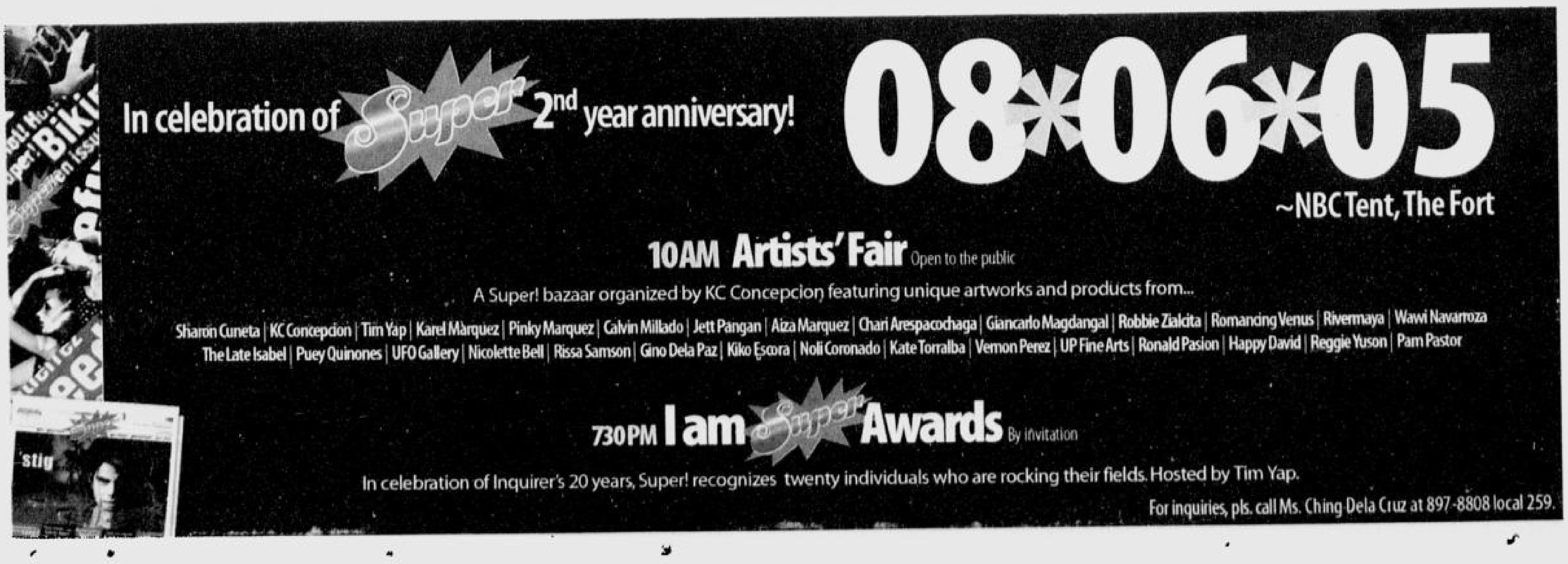
Tough times forced Motorshow to miss out on 1998—during the peak of the Asian financial crisis when many industry players thought it wise to play safe. It came back with a vengeance in 1999 with the Motorshow International 10th edition, by far the grandest and most ambitious of all Motorshows which featured tributes to the country's racing legends: Dodjie Laurel, Baby Luna, Jovy Marcelo, among others.

Today, Motorshow boasts of names like the Ford Motor Co., Volvo, Universal Motors (UMC) for Nissan, Isuzu Phils., Jaguar, VW, Cats Motors and Commercial Motors for Mercedes-Benz, Petron Corp., Mobil Philippines and Pilipinas Shell.

This year, Motorshow International enters its 14th season—awaited by major car assemblers and dealers as the premier auto and cycle show this side of the world, on Sept. 15 to 18, at The Forum at the Philippine International Convention Center. Nallana promises this to be the ultimate in automobile shows—as usual.



FIRST Motorshow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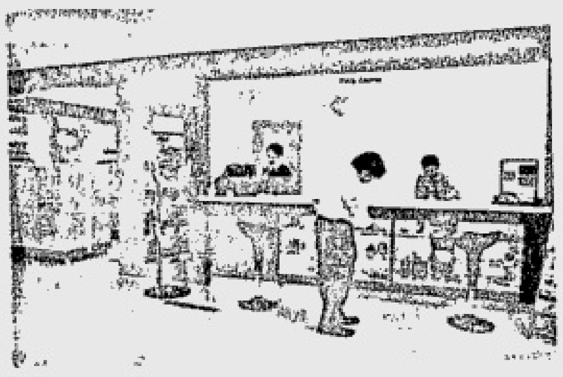

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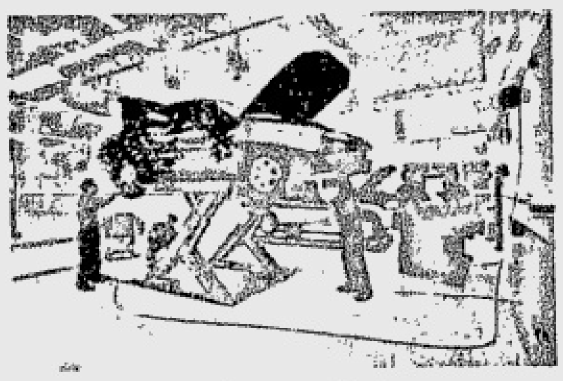

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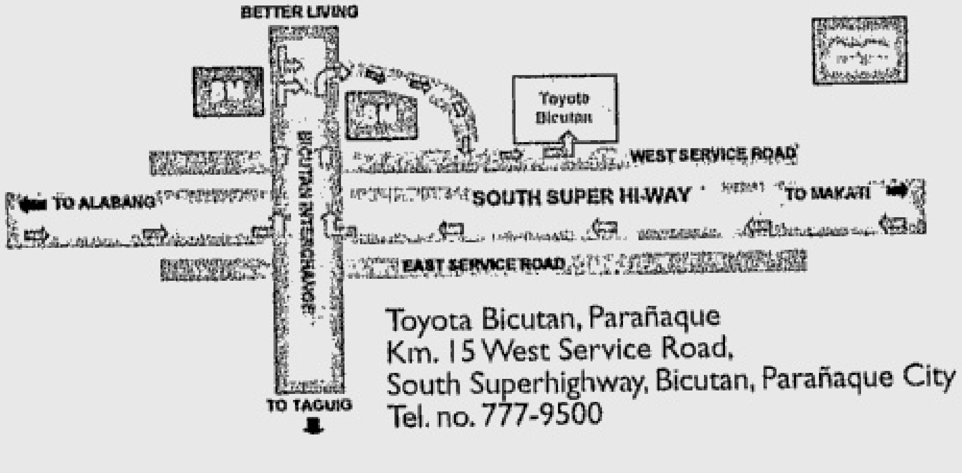
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Sex and the (young) city *Part 1*

While watching Oprah one day, we were shocked to learn that American grade school kids were engaging in oral sex in the back seats of the school bus. It can't be that bad here, we remember thinking. Or is it?

The answer to that question will be in this 2bU! issue and those in the coming weeks. For a three-letter word, sex packs a lot of relevant topics—from shocking statistics to sexually transmitted diseases, from virginity to contraceptives to teenage pregnancy, from having friends "with benefits" to promiscuity. Sift through it all and decide for yourself: Is it that bad here? And if it is, what can be done about it?

ILLUSTRATION BY L.A. MISTADES

SEX AND THE FILIPINO YOUTH

Tu[illegible]g up [illegible] heat

By Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent

Despite increasing sexual activity, young people remain uneducated about sex and its consequences

THE LAST few decades witnessed the emergence of a different Filipino youth—less conservative, perhaps more assertive, and, most significantly, with minds of their own. The freedoms that young people experience today are so numerous that it is overwhelming to even try to grasp what can come out of a generation with so much power.

Noting the consequences, the extremes are evident. On the one hand, we have a very empowered youth whose opinions count and whose decisions can affect the way society thinks and acts. On the other hand, we also see a generation that is struggling to maintain a balancing act between self-discovery and social responsibility. Sometimes, that struggle proves too much to handle.

The issue of sex

One of the more prominent issues is sex. In Philippine society, where one-fifth of the population, or 16.5 million of 82 million Filipinos, belong to the adolescent sector ("adolescents" referring to individuals between the ages of 15 and 24), the issue of sex is not new and the statistics are disturbing.

A nationwide study in 2002 showed that about 23 percent of the youth engage in premarital sex. Those who do are more likely to be idle or are working rather than in school. It is perhaps ironic that it is the students themselves who display a more liberal attitude toward sex-related issues such as live-in arrangements, divorce and homosexuality.

Among the many key factors that influence the Filipino youth on sexuality, the media play a primary role. In 2000, McCann Erickson conducted a study and discovered that the media are considered by the youth as an authority on "what is right, wrong and important."

But the role of adults on youth's sexuality is not evident. Parents and teachers are either uncomfortable discussing sex with the young or do not have the proper information to do so. Seventeen percent of the youth are raised by single parents. Those who were raised by both, however, may experience minimal interaction. In all these cases, the young end up developing values that are different from their elders.

It is also notable that friends and peer groups play an essential role in the youth's social environment. According to studies, 42 percent of the youth know that their friends engage in premarital sex. Smoking, drinking, drug use, suicidal thoughts and physical violence are also linked with premarital sex.

Finally, the Catholic Church's traditional opposition and guardedness to premarital sex and reproductive health education have affected the quality of information that is available to young people.

Effects

In the Young Fertility and Sexuality Survey III of the UP Population Institute, 32.5 percent of the respondents said they did not plan on engaging in pre-marital sex and 23.4 percent said they did not want it to happen but went along with it anyway.

Among sexually active adolescents, only 20 percent used contraception, with condoms, withdrawal, birth control pills and the rhythm method as the more popular choices. Thirty percent of unplanned pregnancies involve adolescents.

Not surprisingly, 36 percent of the 400,000 abortions in the country was performed on adolescents. Teenagers account for 16 percent of induced abortions. (The abortion figure is disputed by pro-life groups, however.)

What may startle some is the fact that 62 percent of reported sexually transmitted infections belong to the adolescent group. Similarly, 62 percent of newly-reported HIV/AIDS infections belong to this group.

Lastly, there are more prostitutes from the 15- to 19-year-old age group than the 20- to 24-year-old bracket. Incidence of paid sex is higher among those in school and those who are not married.

Whether these statistics disturb you or not, they certainly pose serious questions. Are we turning into a society of negotiable morals? Have our standards of morality simply changed? Are we a promiscuous generation, or is this issue simply blown out of proportion?

Sources: ABS-CBN Forum for the Filipino Future, Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Survey III by the UP Population Institute; The 2nd State of the Philippines Population Report-Pinoy Youth: Making Choices, Building Voices (November 2003) by the Commission on Population; The McCann Erickson Youth Study 2000 Edition, The Youth Study 2001 Edition

E-mail the author at cathy_young1@yahoo.com.

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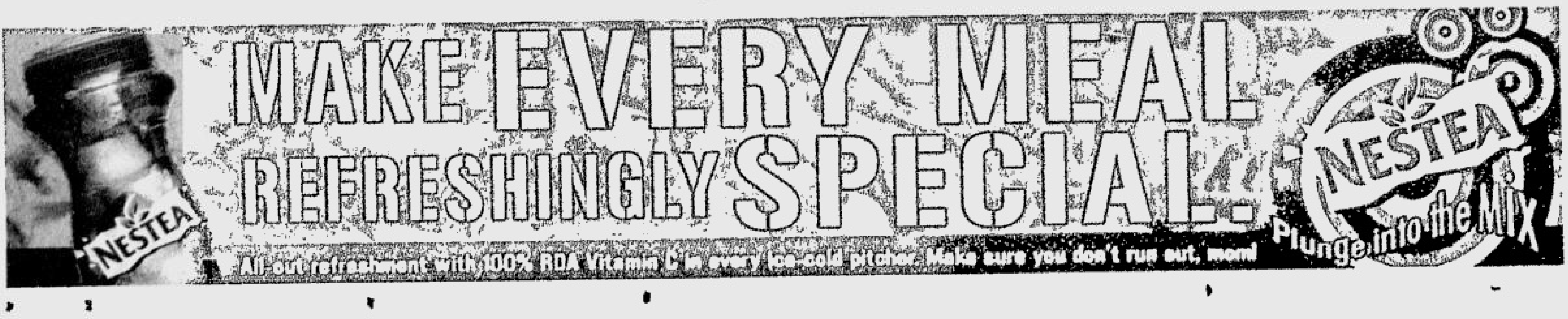

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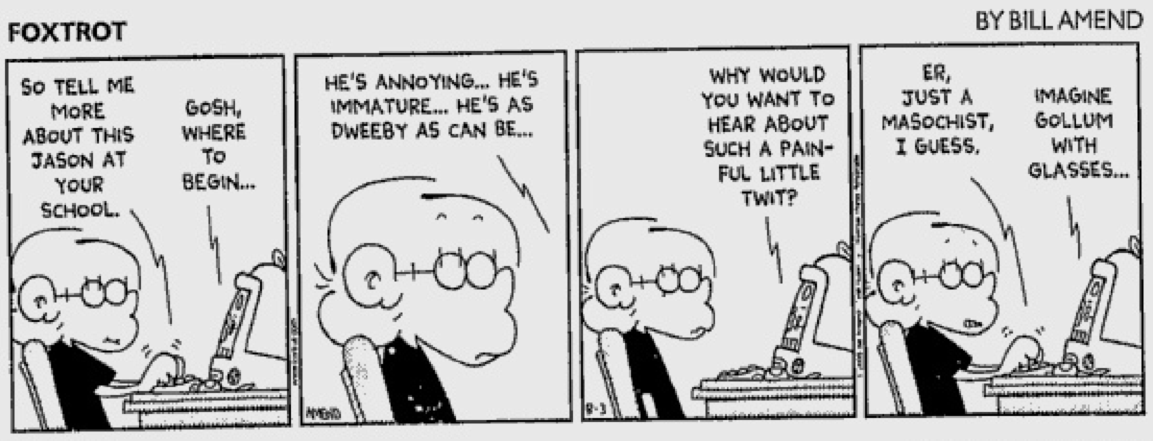
All-out refreshment with 100% RDA Vitamin C in every ice-cold pitcher. Make sure you don't run out, mom!
NESTEA
Plunge into the Mix

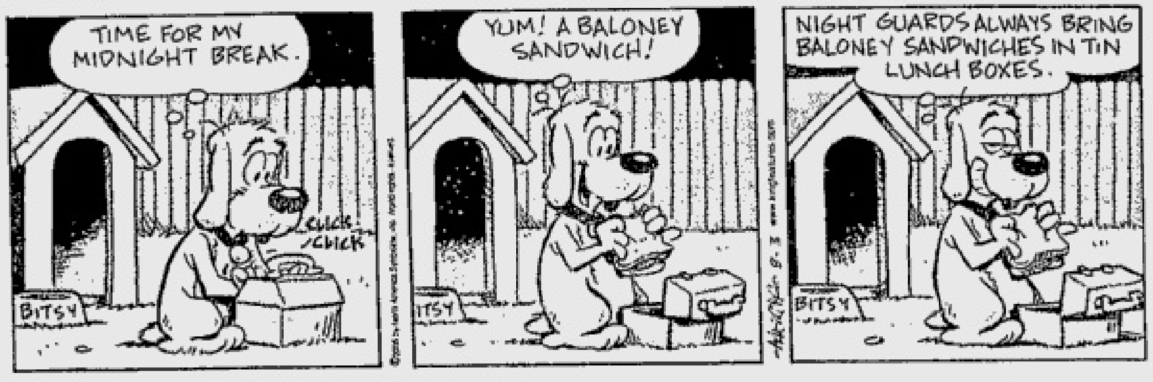
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


SO TELL ME MORE ABOUT THIS JASON AT YOUR SCHOOL.
GOSH, WHERE TO BEGIN...
HE'S ANNOYING... HE'S IMMATURE... HE'S AS DWEEBY AS CAN BE...
WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO HEAR ABOUT SUCH A PAINFUL LITTLE TWIT?
ER, JUST A MASOCHIST, I GUESS.
IMAGINE GOLLUM WITH GLASSES...

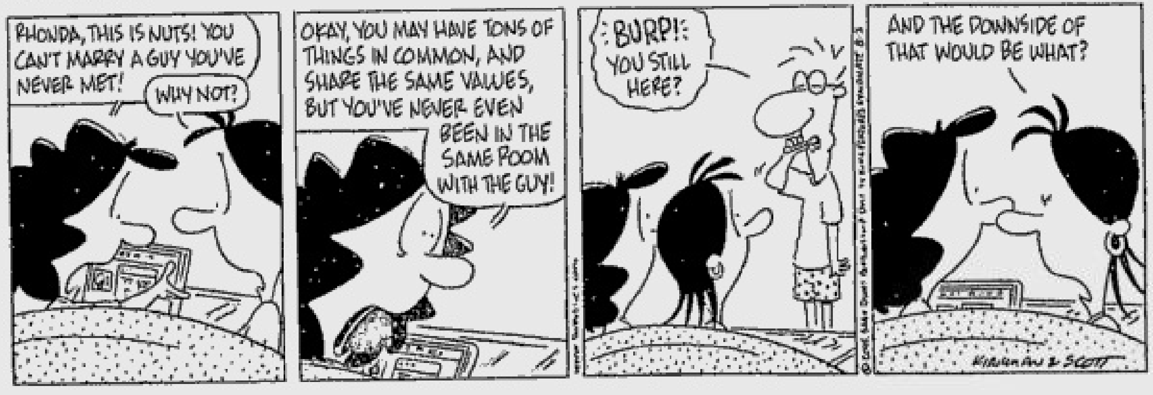
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


TIME FOR MY MIDNIGHT BREAK.
CLICK CLICK
BITSY
YUM! A BALONEY SANDWICH!
NIGHT GUARDS ALWAYS BRING BALONEY SANDWICHES IN TIN LUNCH BOXES.

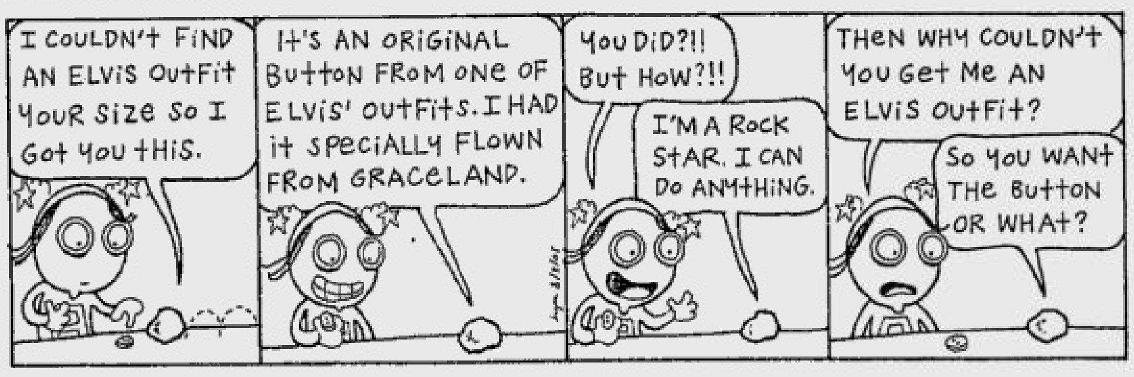
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


RHONDA, THIS IS NUTS! YOU CAN'T MARRY A GUY YOU'VE NEVER MET!
WHY NOT?
OKAY, YOU MAY HAVE TONS OF THINGS IN COMMON, AND SHARE THE SAME VALUES, BUT YOU'VE NEVER EVEN BEEN IN THE SAME ROOM WITH THE GUY!
BURP!
YOU STILL HERE?
AND THE DOWNSIDE OF THAT WOULD BE WHAT?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I COULDN'T FIND AN ELVIS OUTFIT YOUR SIZE SO I GOT YOU THIS.
IT'S AN ORIGINAL BUTTON FROM ONE OF ELVIS' OUTFITS. I HAD IT SPECIALLY FLOWN FROM GRACELAND.
YOU DID?!! BUT HOW?!!
I'M A ROCK STAR. I CAN DO ANYTHING.
THEN WHY COULDN'T YOU GET ME AN ELVIS OUTFIT?
SO YOU WANT THE BUTTON OR WHAT?

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're very genuine, and you have high ideals. Fortunately, you practice what you preach. This makes you an excellent role model for others. You feel very responsible for things. People know they can count on you. This year you will let go of things and people because you're streamlining for your future.
Birthdate of: Martin Sheen, actor; Jay North, child actor; Martha Stewart, media personality.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You feel increasingly serious about something related to children, romance, vacations or artistic projects. Don't be discouraged by anything. This is just a temporary dark cloud on your horizon.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Discussions with a family member (probably a parent) might get you down today. Don't let this happen. In 24 hours, this feeling will be gone.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): It's easy to fall into the trap of worrying too much today (especially this evening). Don't forget that worry is like a rocking chair—it gives you something to do but gets you nowhere.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You might feel concerned about money issues today. (Join the club—we number millions.) Ironically, this concern will disappear in a day or two, even if your finances don't change.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You feel quite serious about life today. Perhaps that's why discussions with partners or close friends take on a serious tone. By tomorrow, you lighten up!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): If you work alone today and tonight, you will get the most done. You need solitude and time to work by yourself to really accomplish something. (Do this for yourself.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Someone older has some advice for you today. Be receptive and open to others. You never know where your next hot tip is coming from.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Others view you as honorable, serious, reliable and conscientious today (quite impressive). You just feel a strong sense of duty about everything.

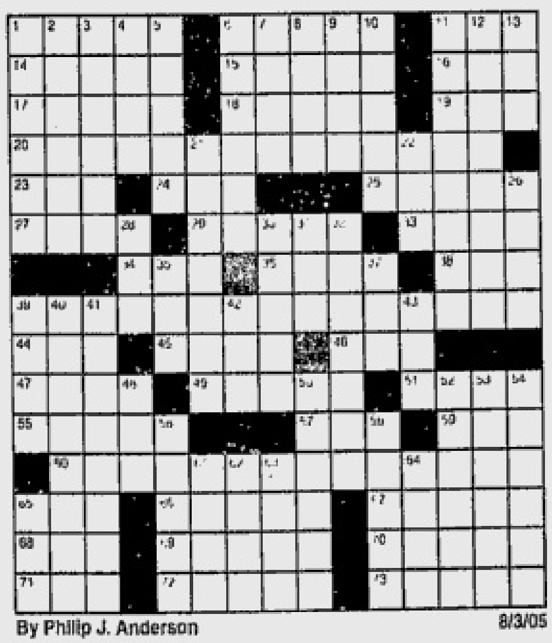
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might be able to solidify plans connected with travel, the media, getting more education or something having to do with legal and medical matters. You want to try to clear up loose details.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You feel you have to juggle your money and your bills right now. (That's how most people feel.) Feel positive about what works, and don't worry about what you can't do.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Discussions with partners are quite serious today. Listen in a genuine, caring manner. Listen to others as you would like them to listen to you.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You'll find it easy to do routine, demanding work today. It might be physically demanding or it could be full of many details. Either way, you can do it!

DAILY CROSSWORD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By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

8/3/05

ACROSS
1 Helicopter blade
6 Abrades to smoothness
11 Numbers pro
14 Protein acid
15 WWII vessel
16 Scull propeller
17 __ David (Star of David)
18 Gaucho's lariat
19 CAT scan relative
20 Winning, in Vegas?
23 __-es-Salaam, Tanzania
24 Mineral vein
25 Happening
27 Part of AARP
29 Dribs and __
33 Comic Johnson
34 Geisha's sash
36 Grassy plot
38 Half a dance?
39 Winning, at Pebble Beach?
44 Wife of Saturn
45 Act boldly
46 Mil. award
47 Parks oneself
49 "Dutchman" author Jones
51 Stately display
55 Brownstone entrance
57 Dos Passos trilogy
59 __ culpa (Sorry 'bout that)
60 Winning, at a demolition derby?
65 Left Bank friend
66 Calyx part
67 Mournful song
68 __ Moines
69 Duck past
70 Come in!
71 Silvery-gray color
72 Change an alarm
73 Lead players

DOWN
1 Motel chain
2 Poncas' relatives
3 Carnivorous felines
4 Draft classification
5 Sonata part
6 Wave rider
7 Help a perp
8 Ark builder
9 Palm fruit
10 Actors' platform
11 Business
12 Of mom and/or dad
13 Jackie's second spouse
21 Sequential
22 Ms. Gardner
26 Watch over
28 Agree silently
30 Modify
31 Phooey!
32 Like Annika Sorenstam
35 Auction call
37 Gridiron division
39 Defeat
40 Representative examples
41 Dumbfound
42 Coll. seniors' test
43 Little rascal
48 Wino
50 Wall socket
52 Sicilian code
53 Scant
54 Essays
56 Model
58 Dreaded mosquito
61 Soccer great
62 Numbered composition
63 Lose luster
64 Tip
65 Rehan or Huxtable

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

F	E	T	E	■	D	E	A	N	S	■	T	M	A	X
O	L	A	N	■	O	X	L	I	P	■	H	A	T	E
W	I	N	D	O	W	P	A	N	E	■	O	X	E	N
L	O	Y	■	A	N	O	N	■	D	O	M	I	N	O
S	T	A	L	K	S	■	A	R	U	B	A	■	■	■
■	■	■	O	S	I	S	■	E	P	I	S	O	D	E
C	H	A	W	■	Z	E	A	L	■	S	P	L	A	T
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O	P	R	A	H	■	U	S	E	R	■	I	N	S	T
D	I	O	C	E	S	E	■	D	E	R	N	■	■	■
■	■	■	K	E	E	L	S	■	P	U	E	B	L	O
S	H	O	P	P	E	■	A	D	A	M	■	A	I	M
P	O	L	A	■	M	A	J	O	R	P	A	Y	N	E
Y	O	G	I	■	E	R	A	S	E	■	M	O	E	N
S	T	A	N	■	D	E	K	E	S	■	B	U	R	S

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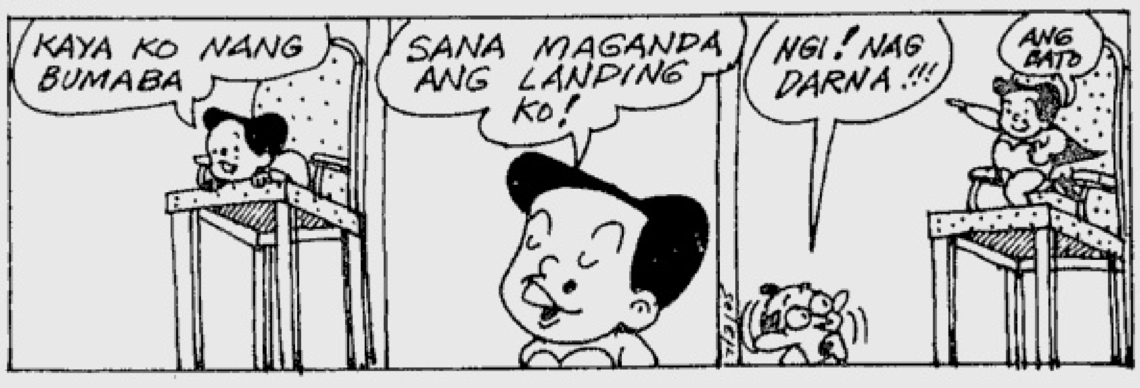
8/3/05

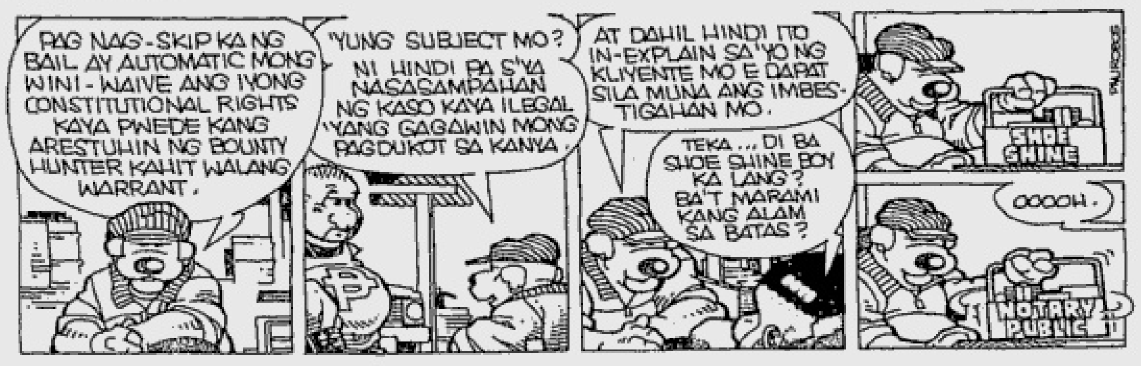
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


KAYA KO NANG BUMABA
SANA MAGANDA ANG LANDING KO!
NGI! NAG DARNA!!!
ANG BATO

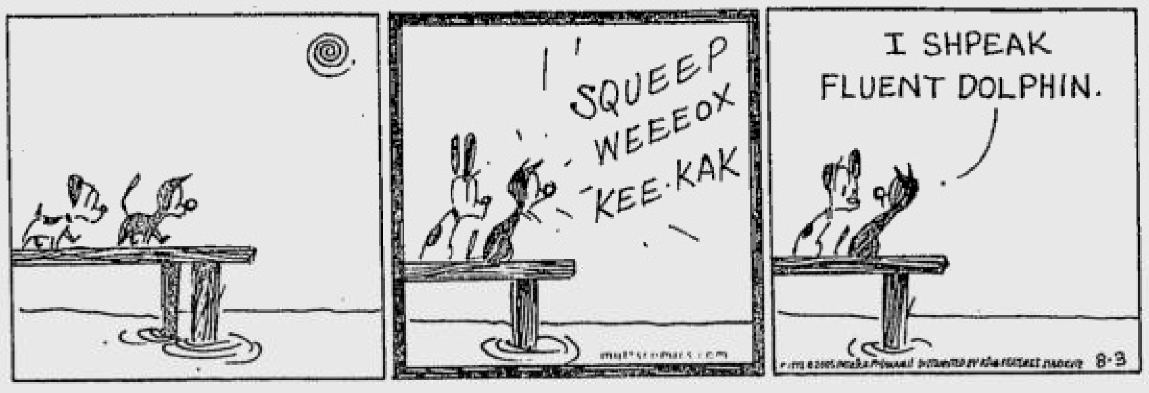
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


PAG NAG-SKIP KA NG BAIL AY AUTOMATIC MONG WINI-WAIVE ANG IYONG CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS KAYA PWEDE KANG ARESTUHIN NG BOUNTY HUNTER KAHIT WALANG WARRANT.
'YUNG SUBJECT MO? NI HINDI PA S'YA NASASAMPAHAN NG KASO KAYA ILEGAL 'YANG GAGAWIN MONG PAGDUKOT SA KANYA.
AT DAHIL HINDI ITO IN-EXPLAIN SA'YO NG KLIYENTE MO E DAPAT SILA MUNA ANG IMBESTIGAHAN MO.
TEKA... DI BA SHOE SHINE BOY KA LANG? BA'T MARAMI KANG ALAM SA BATAS?
SHOE SHINE
OOOOH.
NOTARY PUBLIC

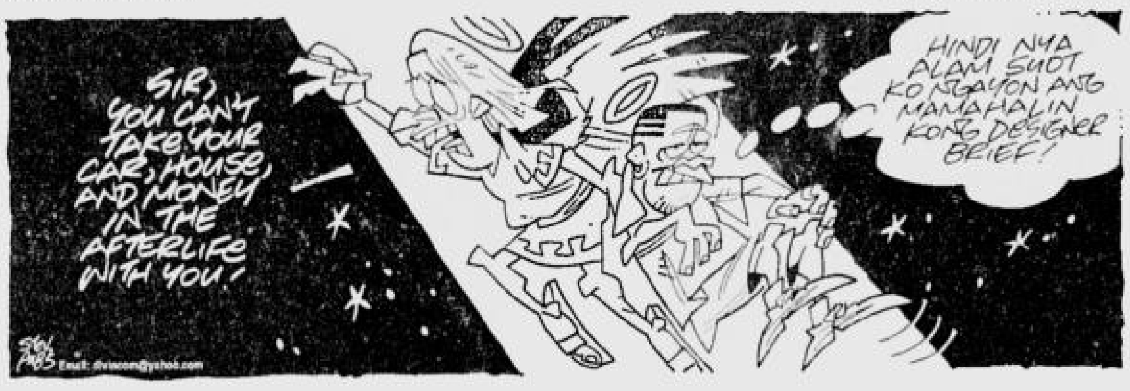
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SQUEEP
WEEEOX
KEE·KAK
I SHPEAK FLUENT DOLPHIN.
8·3

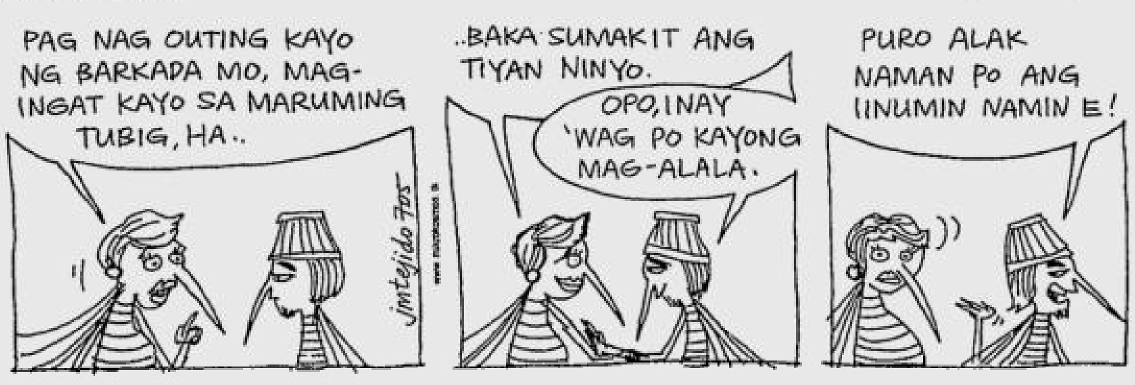
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


SIR, YOU CAN'T TAKE YOUR CAR, HOUSE, AND MONEY IN THE AFTERLIFE WITH YOU!
HINDI NYA ALAM SUOT KO NGAYON ANG MAMAHALIN KONG DESIGNER BRIEF!
Email: divicom@yahoo.com

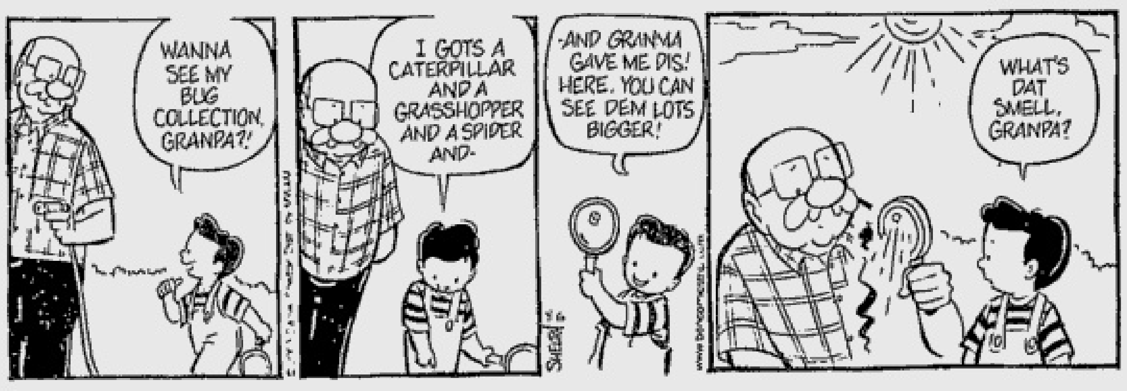
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PAG NAG OUTING KAYO NG BARKADA MO, MAG-INGAT KAYO SA MARUMING TUBIG, HA..
..BAKA SUMAKIT ANG TIYAN NINYO.
OPO, INAY 'WAG PO KAYONG MAG-ALALA.
PURO ALAK NAMAN PO ANG IINUMIN NAMIN E!
jmtejido 7o5

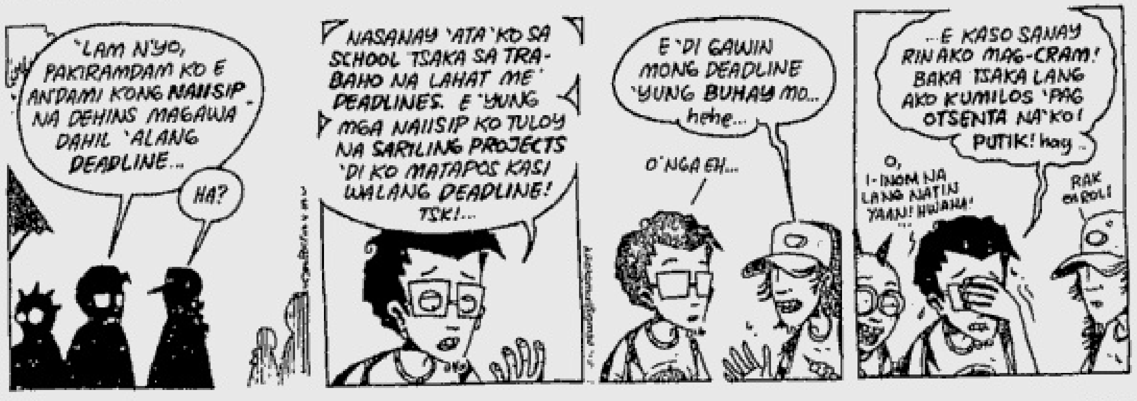
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WANNA SEE MY BUG COLLECTION, GRANPA?!
I GOTS A CATERPILLAR AND A GRASSHOPPER AND A SPIDER AND-
-AND GRANMA GAVE ME DIS! HERE. YOU CAN SEE DEM LOTS BIGGER!
WHAT'S DAT SMELL, GRANPA?

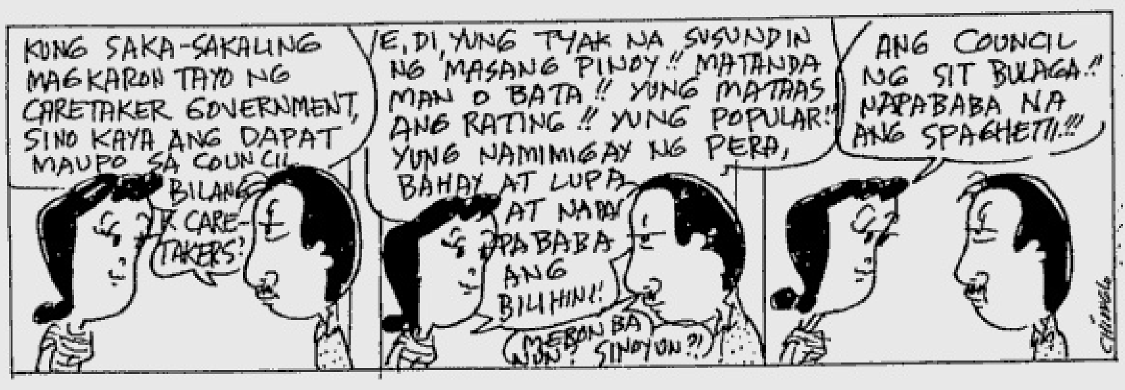
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


'LAM N'YO, PAKIRAMDAM KO E AN'DAMI KONG NAIISIP NA DEHINS MAGAWA DAHIL 'ALANG DEADLINE...
HA?
NASANAY 'ATA 'KO SA SCHOOL TSAKA SA TRABAHO NA LAHAT ME' DEADLINES. E 'YUNG MGA NAIISIP KO TULOY NA SARILING PROJECTS 'DI KO MATAPOS KASI WALANG DEADLINE! TSK!...
E 'DI GAWIN MONG DEADLINE 'YUNG BUHAY MO... hehe...
O'NGA EH...
...E KASO SANAY RIN AKO MAG-CRAM! BAKA TSAKA LANG AKO KUMILOS 'PAG OTSENTA NA'KO! PUTIK! hay..
O, I-INOM NA LANG NATIN YAAN! HWAHA!
RAK EN ROL!

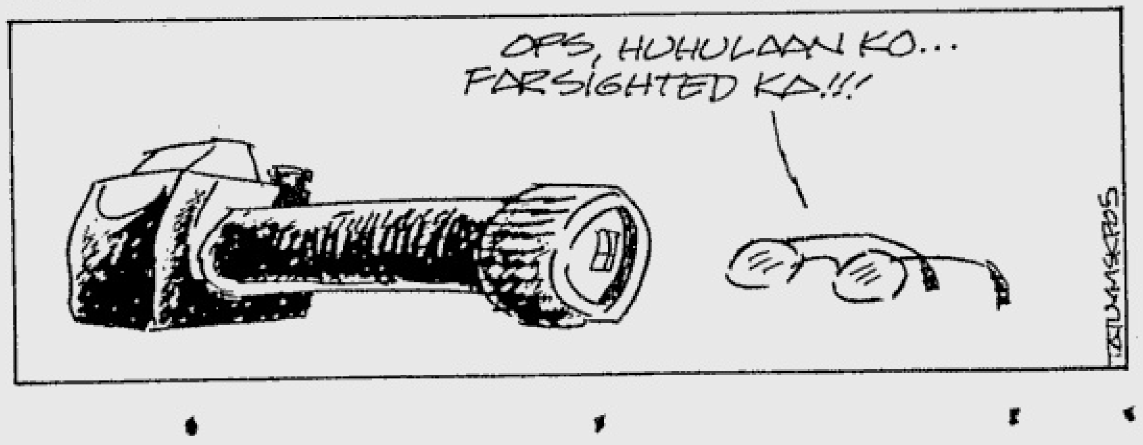
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


KUNG SAKA-SAKALING MAGKARON TAYO NG CARETAKER GOVERNMENT, SINO KAYA ANG DAPAT MAUPO SA COUNCIL BILANG CARE-TAKERS?
E, DI, YUNG TYAK NA SUSUNDIN NG MASANG PINOY!! MATANDA MAN O BATA!! YUNG MATAAS ANG RATING!! YUNG POPULAR!! YUNG NAMIMIGAY NG PERA, BAHAY AT LUPA AT NAPAPABABA ANG BILIHIN!
MERON BA N'ON? SINO'YON?!
ANG COUNCIL NG SIT BULAGA!! NAPABABA NA ANG SPAGHETTI!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


OPS, HUHULAAN KO... FARSIGHTED KA!!!

STD 101

Protect yourself by being aware and taking precautions

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

By Saleema Devi Refran
2bU! Correspondent

GONE are the days when most people thought sexually transmitted diseases (STD), specially HIV, are diseases only among homosexuals. Now it's common knowledge that STDs can infect anyone, anytime.

According to the Department of Health, there were 766 reported HIV-seropositive children and youth in 2001. About 90 percent of this number were aged 20-29. About 60 percent were females. It was also expected that the numbers would grow.

What are the various types of STDs?

Chlamydia

This is considered the most common STD. It is said that about 2.9 million people are infected with chlamydia in the United States alone.

Symptoms: Abnormal discharge and burning sensation when urinating. Lower abdominal pain, low-back pain, nausea, fever, pain during intercourse, and bleeding between menstrual periods. Symptoms may appear two to three weeks after exposure. More often than not, an infected person may not know he has the disease because no symptoms are observed.

Effects: If not treated immediately, this disease can cause chronic pelvic pain, infertility and ectopic or tubal pregnancy. Untreated chlamydia actually increases the chances of getting HIV.

Genital herpes

An estimated 1 million people becomes infected by this disease every year. It is most contagious with people who have open sores.

Symptoms: Itching or burning feeling in the genital or anal area, fever and other flu-like symptoms, swollen glands, pain in the lower extremities, buttocks or genital area and abnormal genital discharge. Lesions or sores start appearing after a few days.

Effects: Symptoms may disappear but the virus stays inside the system forever. There will be outbreaks every now and then.

Gonorrhea

This disease is caused by bacteria that grow on moist places of the reproductive tract and even in the urethra of men and women.

Symptoms: Most people who have gonorrhea report no symptoms of this disease. Symptoms, if any, appear after 10 days of contact. These include pain or burning when passing urine, yellow or sometimes bloody discharge, bleeding between menstrual periods, heavy bleeding during periods and sometimes painful bowel movement.

Effects: If not treated, there is an increased risk of getting HIV. Women may also contract pelvic inflammatory disease which could lead to infertility, ectopic pregnancy and miscarriage. Gonorrhea can also cause problems with pregnant mothers, and the baby may contract the disease when it passes through the birth canal. Complications include blindness, joint infection or other life-threatening blood infections.

Human papillomavirus (HPV)

Most people will have HPV in their lives but will never know about it because the virus goes away on its own. But if one develops warts, one has to have them removed surgically.

Symptoms: Warts can form weeks, months, or even years after sexual contact with a person who has genital HPV. This can grow outside and inside genitalia.

Effects: Increased risk of cervical cancer.

Syphilis

One of the more dangerous sexually transmitted diseases, it develops in stages and can lead to death if not treated immediately.

Symptoms: The primary stage of syphilis often starts with one painless sore, which lasts for 10-90 days. The sore usually appears three weeks after infection. The secondary stage includes a skin rash with rough, red or reddish-brown spots on the palms of the hands and bottoms of the feet, usually not itchy. Rashes of a different appearance may appear on other parts of the body. One may also experience fever, headaches, muscle ache and weight loss. There is also a latent stage where no symptom can be seen, stretching from two to even 30 years after infection.

Effects: The last stage of syphilis has the following complications: damage to the brain, nerves, joints, blood vessels and other vital parts of the body, tumors in some body organs, blindness, insanity and paralysis.

In the Philippines, many cases of STD remain unreported. Many young people today are also not aware of the health hazards posed by sexually transmitted diseases. Barangay health centers are handy sources of information about this issue. Young people should visit these centers every now and then, and take precautions in their private behavior. And when exhibiting symptoms of any STD, do not try to buy over-the-counter medicines from pharmacies. Self diagnosis can often lead to even more complications. Instead, see a doctor immediately.

Let's talk about sex, baby

ALL over the country, more and more young Filipinos are engaging in premarital sex.

This is the finding of the 2002 Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study (YAFS) done by the University of the Philippines Population Institute. For this study, almost 20,000 respondents from ages 15-24 all over the country were asked questions on different sexual and nonsexual behaviors.

The 2002 YAFS recorded an increase in sex among young people beginning in 1994. The study also found out that one out of every five young Filipinos has engaged in premarital sex, and more Filipinos are having premarital sex at a much earlier age.

In 2003, the National Demographic and Health Survey of the National Statistics Office found out that 25 percent of women aged 19 are already mothers. That figure doubled in the 20-24 age range of women. Also, one of four men in the same age range has fathered at least one child.

It doesn't take a genius to figure out that these numbers can be attributed to the lack of knowledge and awareness of young people about issues of fertility, sexuality, family planning and reproductive health.

Pressing problems

With the Department of Education facing other pressing issues like the shortage of classrooms, inadequate budget and the continuing exodus of teachers to other countries, it has made no provision for adequate sex education for students.

While there have been attempts in the past to incorporate sex education in the Philippine curriculum, nothing concrete has pushed through.

In a forum on Gov.ph, the official government portal of the Republic of the Philippines, many people have expressed concern over the increasing risks from the sexual behavior of today's youth.

As one forum member posted, "At a young age, children must be taught to be responsible when it comes to sex, especially when they reach their reproductive age."

Another forum member suggested that if and when sex education is incorporated in the curriculum of public schools, teachers must also undergo special training so they can adequately provide students with the right information.

Not all universities and colleges offer sex education in their courses. Education majors see this as a problem. "I think teaching sex education is important, but how are we going to teach it if education students like us are being shielded from it?" said an education major.

She also pointed out that Filipino culture itself considers sex a taboo subject. "I believe our culture makes it hard to teach such a subject... [since we are] a Catholic country."

The Thai way

In Thailand, it is said that students listen more to teachers who enforce non-conventional techniques in teaching sex education. An Inter Press Service 2002 feature, "Straight-talking sex educators reach Thai youngsters," delved into the teaching techniques that worked on students throughout Thailand.

Sex educator Nakorn Saniyothin said her students reacted more to informal language and street slang. She also said that in order to remove the awkwardness attached to talking about sex, people should treat it as a common matter, like food or shelter. This is needed to correct many misconceptions about sex.

The lack in sexual understanding, said Saniyothin, may lead to serious problems like unwanted pregnancies, abortion, HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Alternatives

Though the idea of incorporating sex education in Philippine schools seems to face a big hurdle, there are other alternatives to raising awareness about this issue.

Concerned organizations and agencies are trying to fill the void by conducting open forums that address questions teenagers might have about sex. The Population Institute of the University of the Philippines-Diliman has been coordinating with other organizations and schools to share the results of the 2002 YAFS. Through such forums, information and other materials on sex are distributed. This is a welcome development, and may many more similar efforts push through.

Saleema Devi Refran

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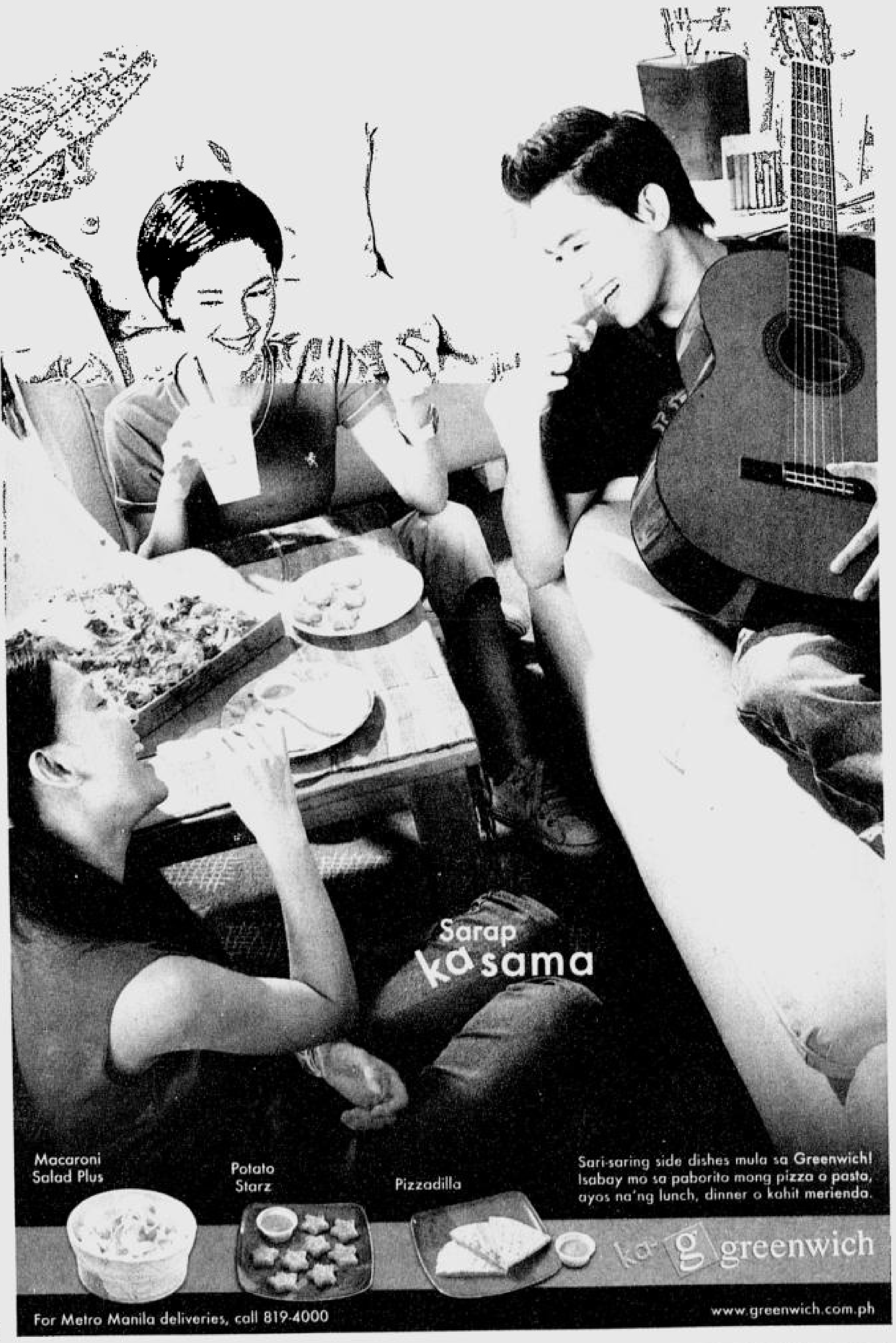

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08*06*05
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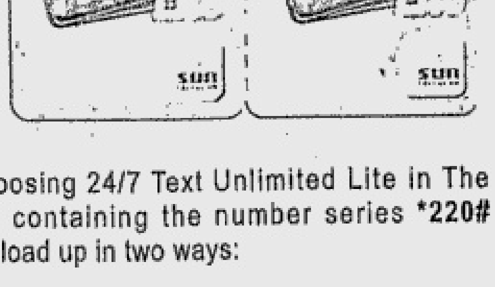

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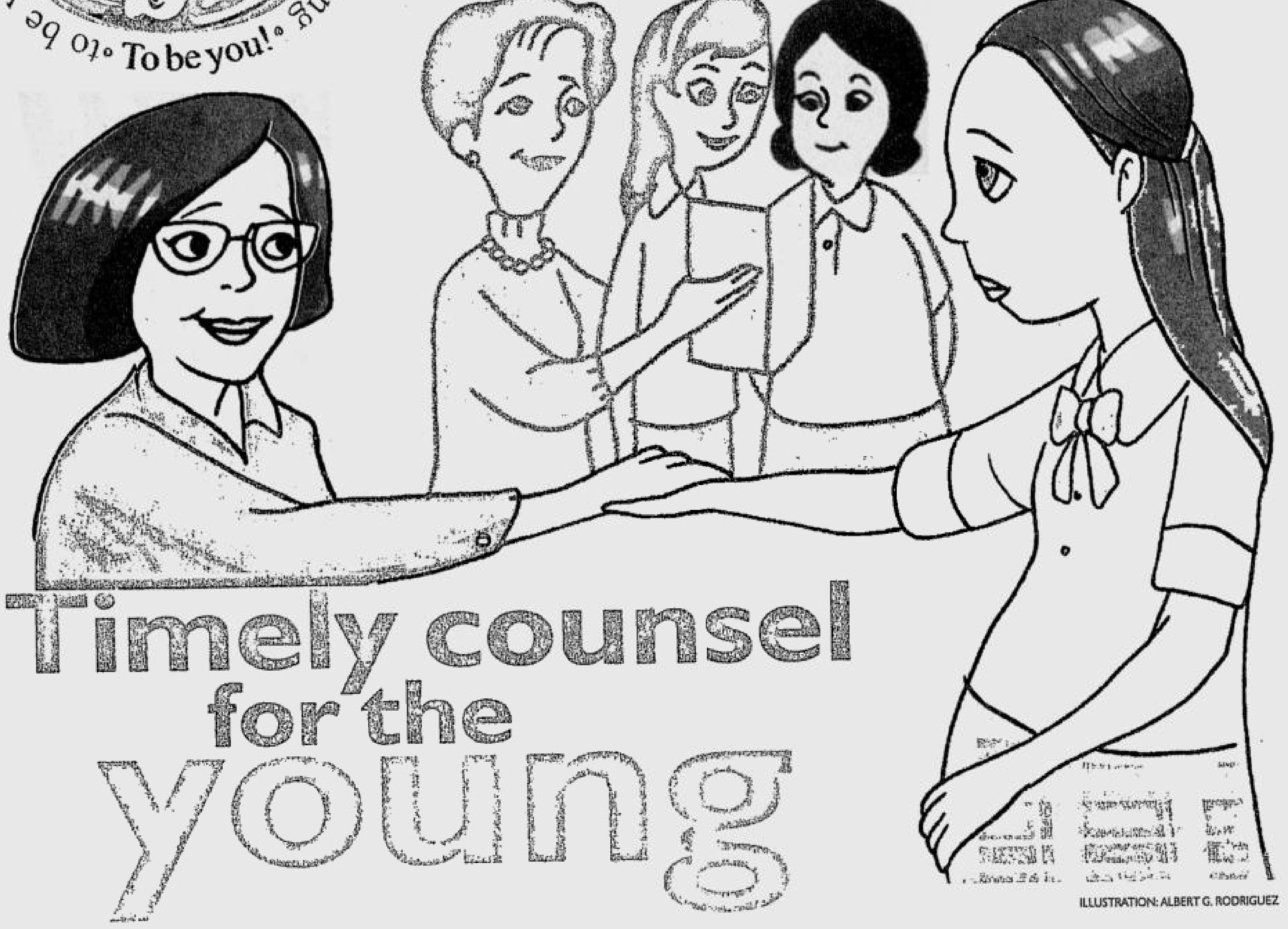

Timely counsel for the young

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

The youth need guidance on pregnancy and sex issues

By Bianca Consunji
2bU! Correspondent

IT IS a story that may not be too pleasant, but one that is repeated all too often for comfort: teenage pregnancy. You know at least one person who got pregnant in her teens—it might have been your classmate, your cousin, your sister or a good friend.

It isn't something new; after all, how many "I got pregnant at 16!" stories have you read in magazines? But the fact that it happens often doesn't make it any less problematic for the people involved. Although many women have gone on as normally as they could with their lives (and with some becoming even more successful than they dreamed of when they were teens), many girls are faced with bleak futures after having an unexpected baby.

Some 16.5 million Filipinos belong to the 15- to 24-year-old age group. Thirty percent of all births belong to this age group; by the age of 20, 25 percent of the youth are already mothers. And according to the State of Philippine Population Report, rural teenagers are twice as likely to get pregnant at that age.

Statistics also show that every year, at least 64,000 teenagers have abortions. And those are statistics from a country where abortion is illegal—just how many more girls are getting rid of their babies by sticking wire hangers up their uterus inside dorm bathrooms? How many girls die by trying to kill their unborn children by themselves?

Grim

As a whole, the situation is grim for pregnant teenage girls. Faced with few options and with nowhere to turn, many girls head to shady abortion clinics or find various ways to get rid of the fetus. Some go to Quiapo, where they purchase bottles of "*pamparegla*" or pills that supposedly induce miscarriages. And in a few cases, some simply disguise their bellies and hide their pregnancy from everyone—they deal with the baby only at the moment of birth (in the process, some infants come out disfigured from months of the mother wearing a girdle and malnourished because of dieting on the girl's part—the less weight she gains, the less

people would notice her condition.)

These things often happen because of the seeming lack of options for pregnant teenagers; because of the supposed shame that the pregnancy brings, many would rather deal with it on their own rather than involving their family and friends. This is a problem that Teens Health Quarters (THQ) of the Foundation for Adolescent Development (FAD) tries to address.

THQ, a center that caters especially to the sexual health of young people aged 15-24, aspires to provide information, values clarification, behavior modeling, and medical services to teens and young adults. While it does provide the usual health center services—dental care, skincare, blood typing and weight management—it focuses on reproductive and sexual health-related help, such as pregnancy tests, pap smears, sexually transmitted infection (STI) management, and circumcision.

Prevention

However, above their other services, THQ and FAD take pride in their information and education campaigns, which promote the belief that "prevention is still the best cure." THQ has a number of educational videos and reading material that could be used by schools and teens' centers to help adolescents understand more about sex and other related issues. In the series, you will find videos with titles such as "Pito-Pitong Maling Akala sa Sex"; "Sugat sa Ugat," which is about incest; "Sexcapades Show," which discusses HIV/AIDS, and other rather interesting features.

THQ also has a large network of sister companies, where they refer teens according to their cases. These include the Office of the Legal Aid, Women's Crisis Center, Remedios AIDS Foundation, Family Planning Organization of the Philippines, Dangerous Drugs Board, Life Change Counseling Center and Psychiatric Clinic, and Kanlungan sa ER-MA Ministry.

Teens Health Quarters is franchising in order to reach out to more teens across the country. Interested parties may contact Aurora-Silayan Go, FAD president at fad-inc@pworld.com.ph or fad-inc@codewan.com.ph. Call 7341788.

Aside from THQ, troubled teens can also turn to Dial-a-Friend and E-mail-a-Friend, which can be contacted at 7348902-03 and 7349663-64, and www.teenfad.ph, respectively. Pregnant teens can also contact Pregnancy Counseling Services, an interfaith, nonpolitical organization working that gives free confidential counseling to anyone involved in a worrisome pregnancy and to anyone disturbed or depressed after having or causing someone else to have an abortion.

E-mail biancaconsunji@yahoo.com

Pregnancy Counseling Service centers

PCS Cubao
Care & Share Center
32 6th St., New Manila, QC
Call 7224195

PCS Quiapo
San Juan de Dios Hospitaller
1126 R. Hidalgo St., Quiapo, Manila
Call 7359718

St. Gerard Family Life Center
National Shrine, Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Redemptorist Church, Baclaran, Parañaque
Call 8575770, fax 5512609

Kababaihan ng Maynila Headquarters
2342 Opalo St., San Andres, Manila
Call 5630597, fax 5645628

PCS Sampaloc
851 Leyte St., Sampaloc, Manila
Call 7801236

National Shrine of Sacred Heart
Parish, Makati
Call 8904151, M-W-F-Sat, 1-5 p.m.

Tanglaw ng Pag-asa Counseling Center
Shrine of Mary Queen of Peace
Edsa cor Ortigas Ave., Pasig City
Call 6313815

Welcome House
1641 Zamora St., Paco, Manila
Call 5636363 or 5640728

St. Andrew Parish Family Counseling
F. Garcia cor Neptune, Bel-Air II, Makati City
Call 8901796 or 8901743

Lifeline Counseling
Rm. 203 Antipolo Bldg., Session Rd. Baguio City ·
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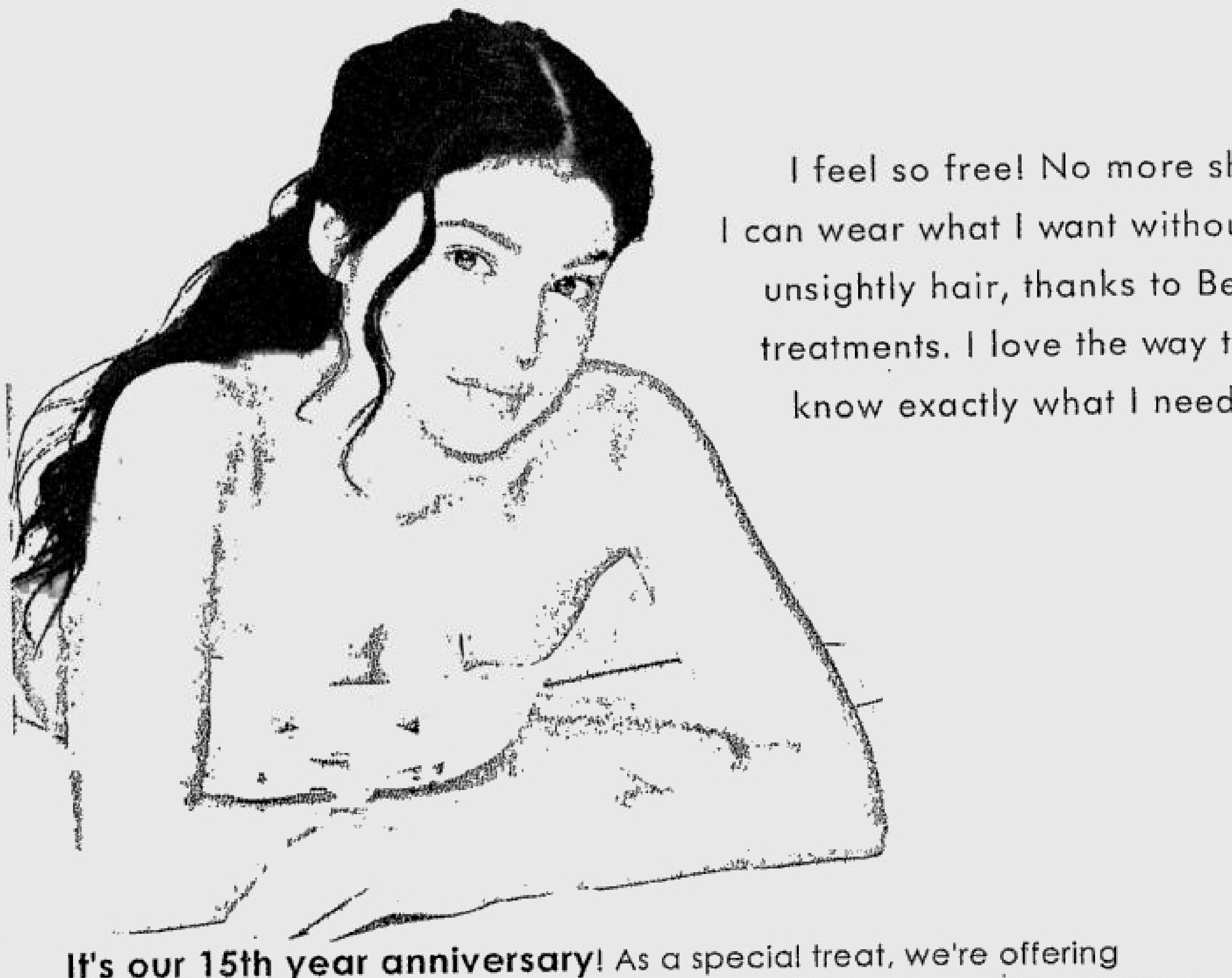
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Bittersweet seventeen

As told to Vanessa Arellano Doctor

NINETEEN-YEAR-OLD Karen (not her real name) speaks of life rather poignantly for her age. While the rest of her peers worry about what to wear for school, how to get back or break up with their lovers or how to gyrate invitingly enough in a club, Karen concerns herself with changing diapers, waking up in the wee hours of morning and dreaming for her 17-month old angel, Marga.

TO ANTIQUENO

Yes, Karen, at 19, is a mother. And a proud one at that.

Most people frown upon the idea of a teenage girl becoming a mom. But we have to admit that Karen's experience is not uncommon now, nor is it new. Here is what it's been like for Karen, in her own words:

Young, naive

"Perhaps I was too young to notice the symptoms of pregnancy, or maybe I was too naïve. I was 17 then. I didn't take heed of the initial symptoms as I thought I was just having my period. But it was what they called 'spotting' *na pala*. Months after, the bleeding came more often, around thrice a week, so I told my mom about it and we visited the doctor.

"Being pregnant never entered my mind. I was more scared that I had developed myoma because it ran in the family. But when the doctor told me, 'There's something you're not telling your mom,' I understood. Feeling *ko binagsakan ako ng langit* and my mom almost fainted. I could not speak. I couldn't even look at her. I felt so ashamed and confused.

"The father? We had stopped dating months before the discovery. And I didn't really believe getting married was the solution. When my friends informed him I was pregnant, he at first denied having had sex with me but later said, '*Pag nanganak ka nang* August, *sa akin yan.*'

"I felt insulted! But that's over now. The guy and I remain civil to each other, but we're not friends.

Falling stars

"When it finally dawned on me that I was going to become a mom, I thought my world had almost ended. I was a college freshman at a reputable university. I belonged to a popular crowd and I was dating a really great guy. I was at the peak of my teenage life!

"But my family and friends all told me they would be there to support me all the way and, somehow, all my worries and fears were replaced with hope and strength. I knew I wasn't prepared to become a mother just yet, but seeing how concerned the people around me were, I had to hold my head high for myself and for my baby.

"At first, I experienced a lot of rude comments from people. You know how our society is, *pagchichismisan ka lagi*, especially given my age. There was even a guy who told me, 'Karen, *alam mo sayang ka. Sayang* future *mo*.' It hurt but I just smiled back and said, 'Why so? *May nawala ba talaga? May nadagdagan ngang* blessing *sa buhay ko*.'

"My family decided to send me to live with our relatives in the province. Perhaps they thought it was best, since having all those people say nasty things about me while I was pregnant could just stress me out and endanger the baby's life. Plus, I had grandparents who were really conservative. So we hid what happened from them.

Single parent

"In the province, I stayed with my Tita Nene, who really took care of me and treated me like her daughter.

"Not a day passed when my mom and I didn't text each other. When I finally accepted that I was, indeed, going to be a mom soon, I realized I had to be a strong and brave woman like my mom because I was going to be a single parent. You see, my father died when I was 10 months old and my mother never remarried after that. So it was a big transition in our family that I was going to have a child.

August 7, 2002

"When I first felt the pain, I thought I was just hungry, so I began eating a lot. But my *tita*, who was a nurse, told me we had to go to the hospital immediately. I didn't really feel that kind of pain we see at the movies where the women would scream their heads off and even curse the people around them. It wasn't that painful.

"Maybe prayer helped a lot. Faith in the Lord was what inspired me to go on, especially when the doctor decided to perform a caesarian operation.

"While I was at the emergency room, the nurses tried talking to me to help calm me down. One of them asked how old I was, and when I told them I was only 17, one nurse exclaimed, '*Naku, dapat naglalaro ka pa ng bahay-bahayan*.' And I replied rather jokingly, '*Iniwan na nga po ako ng kalaro ko eh*.'

"When I woke up, I was heavily sedated I could barely open my mouth to speak. So I gestured to my mom, asking her how the baby was, what she looked like and if I could go see her. I was really excited.

"Seeing my baby for the first time, I almost cried. I fought back the tears because I didn't want my mother to see my soft side. When the nurses finally had me hold my baby, I wanted to hug her so much and kiss her and tell her all my dreams for her and us both. It was then it really hit me. No matter what, I would do my best to give her everything good in life. I made a promise that even though I would be a single parent, I'd be the best one for her.

Difficult days

"The first three months were really hard. I had to learn to change nappy, prepare milk, bathe the baby, put her to sleep and make her burp. The most difficult part was waking up at ungodly hours because she needed me. After a while, mother's instinct kicked in and I would wake up even before my baby began crying. Then, after six months, *tuloy-tuloy na ang tulog niya*. That was when I started going back to school.

"My mother and my Tita Nene were my mentors. We bought a lot of books on how to take care of babies and we lifted a lot of information from the Internet.

"When I started attending school again, I tried really hard not to be affected by what people said about me. On the first day of class, whenever we got asked to introduce ourselves, I would always say proudly that I have a daughter. Yes, I've never been ashamed of it.

The future

"I want to graduate as early as possible. That's four semesters from now. I used to want to be a teacher, but now that my angel's here, I'd like to try my hand at being a human rights lawyer.

"Though Marga is only 17 months old, I make sure she understands the value of education. I want her to be really excited about learning and going to school.

"That's why I bring her to campus often. I also want her to see where I am when I'm not at home with her. I take her to my organization's events and have my friends play with her. Every Friday, my buddies and I play with her at the park. It has been done so often it has become a typical sight at that place.

"Now all my decisions are rooted on what's best for my child. I do want to have a husband someday, one who will truly care for me and my baby. He has to be a role model for Marga. And if I don't meet that guy, I'd rather be a single parent all my life.

"When I go out, sometimes a guy comes up to me and asks if I already have a boyfriend. I say, 'No, but I do have a daughter.'

"In short, package deal *kami*. If you don't like my having a kid, then I don't like you, either. And if my daughter doesn't want you around, I'll forget about you.

Lessons

"I don't regret having gotten pregnant. But I do regret not having been prepared well enough to become a mother. Whenever I hear that some girl I know is pregnant, I always tell her not to be scared because having someone to call your own can give you a different kind of high. But I also tell her that it's sometimes painful to become a mother because the pain your child feels doubles on you.

"This is what I want to tell other women with the same experience. Be proud.

"About sex, I tell people, if you can't be good, be safe. Sex creates life, not a toy or a doll you can just get rid of or throw away.

"No, my life has not ended because Marga came. It has only flourished, and like the proud answer of your typical beauty queen, she is the essence of my being a woman."

E-mail the author at ness_doctor@yahoo.com.

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Pregnancy Counseling Service centers

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SLLM Out Patient Department, JP Rizal Memorial Hospital
Dasmarinas, Bagong Bayan, Cavite

Maternity homes

Heart of Mary Villa
394 MH del Pilar St., Malabon
Call 2771473 or 2770351; fax 4467341

Kaisahang Buhay Foundation
56 10th Ave., Cubao, Quezon City
Call 9121159 or 9114180; fax 9121160

Norfil Foundation
16 Mother Ignacia cor Roces Ave., QC
Call 3723577 to 78; fax 3732169

Abiertas House of Friendship
21 Santolan Rd., Quezon City
Call 7243969

Alay Ng Puso (Sisters of Mother Teresa, Missionary of Charity)
Emerald Hills, Sumulong Hi-way, Antipolo, Rizal
Call 6976457

Philippine National Red Cross
Social Services Department
Bonifacio Drive, Port Area Manila
Call 5278384; fax 5270867

Marillac Hills
Call 8071585 or 8071589; fax 8071587

Haven
Call 8071585/88/90; fax 8071591/92

Norfil Foundation Cebu
Airbase Road, Sangipajo, Lapu-Lapu City
Call 3401189

Bale Josefa
2116 New York St. Don Cornelio Subd. Dau,
Mabalacat, Pampanga
Fax (045) 6318181

Pro-life Capiz Care and Share Center
PO Box 81, Roxas City, 5800
Fax (036) 6210452

RGS counseling center and shelter for women

Villa Maria Good Shepherd Sisters
PO Box 260, Banawa Hills,Cebu City 6000

Good Shepherd Sisters
200 Blas Chavez Velez St., Apovel, Buluan
Cagayan De Oro City
Call (08822) 735476

Good Shepherd Home
Greenfield St., Penafrancia, Naga City 4400
Call (05421) 732903 or 736-445

Good Shepherd Home
Gov. Forbes St., San Roque, Legaspi City 4500
Call (05221) 23173 or (052) 4807387; fax (052) 4812384 (SAC Office)

Good Shepherd Sisters
Reach Out Center
215 Camachile St., 8000 Matina, Davao City

Woman's Center
Tigatto, Davao City
Call (082) 4402617

Foster care, abandoned and adoption

Parenting Foundation (foster care)
17 Chapel Drive, Mint cor South Row, West Service Road SSH, Muntinlupa 1771
Call 8421560

White Cross (abandoned, adoption)
276 Santolan Rd., San Juan, Metro Manila
Call 7242145

Settlement House (abandoned, neglected, abused)
1451 Quirino Ave., Paco, Manila
102 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
Call 8401771

Concordia Services
(for abandoned women, for adoption)
443 Old Sta. Mesa St., Sampaloc, Manila
Call 5632309

Reception and Study Center for Children (adoption)
West Avenue, Quezon City (back of SM West)
Call 9274244 or 3266757

Elsie Gaches Village (abandoned, adoption)
Alabang, Muntinlupa
Call 8076023

Asilo De San Jose (adoption)
Call 5231460 or 523-3829; fax 5228696

Scandinavian Children Mission
(abandoned, adoption)
4 2nd St., Crame, San Juan
Call 7210322; fax 7250917

Redeemer Home Foundation
(abandoned, adoption)
441 Emerald Lane St., Cristimar Village,
Antipolo, Rizal
Call 6500960

CRIBS (foster, abandoned, adoption)
30 Major S. Dizon St., Industrial Valley, Marikina
Call 6815921; fax 6471329

SOS Children's Village in the Phils.
(abandoned, adoption)
Call 8509654 or 8070764

Alay ng Puso (abandoned, adoption)
683 Del Pan St., Binondo, Manila
Call 2428496

Home of Joy (abandoned, adoption)
292 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City

Home for the Angels (adoption)
2306 Coral St., cor. Augusto Francisco St.
San Andres, Manila
Call 5630531 or 5645628

Psychiatric and psychological services

Phillippine Mental Halth Association
18 East Avenue , Quezon City
Call 9214958, 921-4959 or 9212093

Dr. Reynaldo Lesaca
UERM Hospital
Call 7151129

Ma. Victoria Achaval
NCMH
Call 5315001 loc. 277

Counseling center and temporary shelter for women in crisis

Women Crisis Center
7/F, Penthouse East Avenue Hospital
Call 9267744 or 922-5235; fax 9249315

Welcome House
1641 Zamora St. Paco, Manila
Call 5636363

Good Shepherd Convent
1043 Aurora Blvd., QC
Call 9136433

Marillac Hills
Call 8071585 or 8071589
Fax 8071587

Haven
Call 8071586/88/90, fax 8971591/92

Women's Desk
Philippine General Hospital
Call 5242990 or 5218450 loc. 3072

Regional Haven for Women
Lingo Solana, Cagayan Valley
Call (078) 8248180

Source: Pro-Life Philippines at www.prolife.org.ph/page/directory

There's nothing sexy about these numbers

264,415
Metro Manila respondents of a national survey were not aware of any kind of birth control method, and 9.5 out of 10 unsafe abortions take place in developing countries

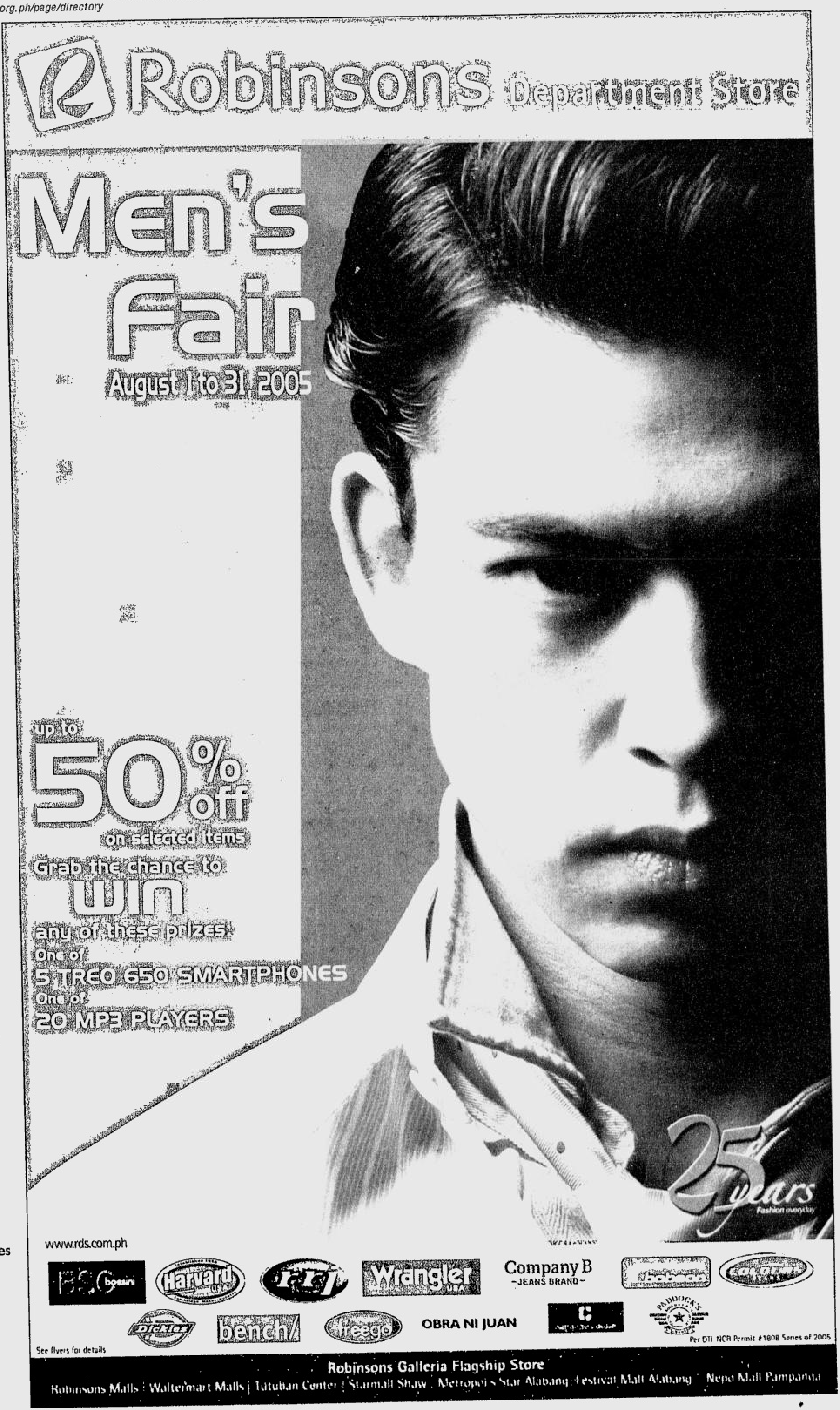
64,000
is the number of young people who have abortions every year in the Philippines

23%
of young people are having sex, according to a nationwide study in 2002

62%
of reported cases of sexually transmitted disease belong to the adolescent group

25%
of 19-year-old women are already mothers, according to the National Demographic and Health Survey of the National Statistics Office in 2003

Statistics compiled by Maui V. Reyes, Saleema Refran, Bianca Consunji and Cathy Young



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Citibank's Retail Branch Banking Director Ailene Litonjua and Universal Motors Corp. SVP for Marketing Elizabeth Lee show off the grand prize for the One Million Thanks To You raffle promotion for retail banking clients - a 4x4 Nissan Patrol.

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Starting August 1 to October 31, 2005, Citibank retail bank customers can expect a windfall of exciting prizes based on raffle points they can earn from different banking transactions. The prizes include such high-end gadgetry as Canon Digital Video Camera, Sony TV with DVD Home Theater, Apple IPOD units, Pentium 4-powered PCs, Philips TV with rack, and, for the grand prize, a 4x4 Nissan Patrol SUV.

"We are giving away lifestyle rewards, prizes that suit the sophisticated tastes of our clients. The Nissan Patrol in particular is acknowledged as one of the market leaders in the luxury SUV category and we're sure Citibank clients will be very comfortable in the driver's seat," Litonjua related.

To join, Citibank primary accountholders need to complete the Thank You Raffle Registration Form and submit this to their Account Officer. Once accomplished and turned in, they are immediately qualified to join in the raffle. Registration forms must be turned in on or before 12 noon of October 31, 2005.

Existing primary accountholders are awarded a starter bonus of one (1) raffle point for every P100,000 of his total relationship balance maintained as of July 31, 2005.

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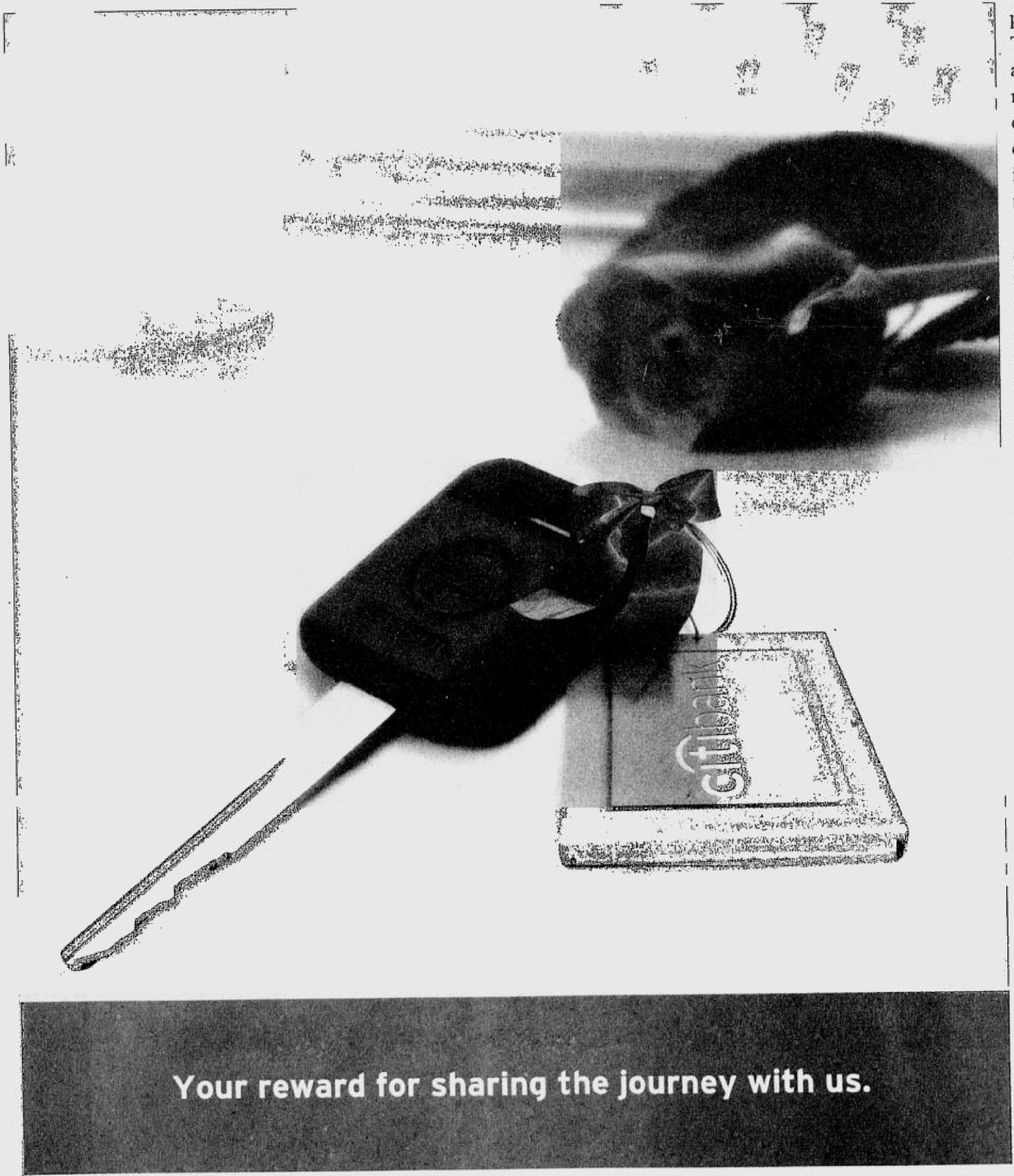
Avail of at least P100,000 worth of Citibank Cash-Secured Line, and get five (5) raffle chances for every P100,000 availed of per month. In addition, get ten (10) raffle chances for every P100,000 worth of investments you make.

For online transactions at www.citibank.com.ph, customers get one (1) raffle chance when they open a Time Deposit with a tenor of at least 6 months. They can also earn one (1) raffle chance by opening a checking or savings account online or by recommending a friend to open the same during the promotion period.

New customers can also earn raffle chances from maintaining a checking or savings account, time deposits and investments, availing of a Cash-Secured Line and banking online.

All raffle points will be accumulated until the end of the promotion period. The grand raffle draw will be on November 15, 2005, where twenty lucky customers will walk away with valuable prizes totaling over P3 million.

ADVT.



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See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4421, Series of 2005.

For inquiries on enrolling in this raffle promotion, call 894-7162 in Metro Manila or 234-9037 in Metro Cebu.

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Every first week of August is WOFEX! Every year, we have seen World's Food Expo grow at unprecedented rates, growth despite an ailing economy, growth amidst so much uncertainty. That WOFEX continues to get bigger in a year when most trade shows retracted, this is a strong testament to the confidence the food and beverage industry has in World's Food Expo.

Business must go on and in WOFEX, business shall continue to be the order of the day. Not only are the established companies in participation but there are also many new, first time exhibitors that joined this year. From August 3-6, 3005, the World Trade Center will be jam-packed with products and services from all over the world, ready to meet the demands of the market.

WOFEX continues to enjoy wide government and industry support. Among its cooperators are the following :

Dep't of Agriculture (DA); Dep't of Foreign Affairs (DFA); Dep't of Science & Technology (DOST); Dep't of Tourism (DOT); Dep't of Trade & Industry (DTI); Office of Muslim Affairs (OMA); National Diary Authority (NDA); National Youth Commission (NYC); Food Caterer's Assoc. of the Phils.(FCAP); Hotel & Restaurant Chefs Assoc. of the Phils.(HRCAP); Int'l Wines & Spirits Assoc.; Phil. Association of Meat Processors, Inc.(PAMPI); Phil. Amalgamated Supermarkets Assoc., Inc. (PAGASA); Phil. Assoc. of Supermarkets, Inc. (PASI); Phil. Bartender's League (PBL); Phil. Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PCCI); Phil. Exporters Confederation; Phil. Food Processors and Exporters Organization, Inc. (PHILFOODEX); Phil. Institute of Supply Management Assoc. of the Phils.; Sugar Millers Assoc. of the Phils.

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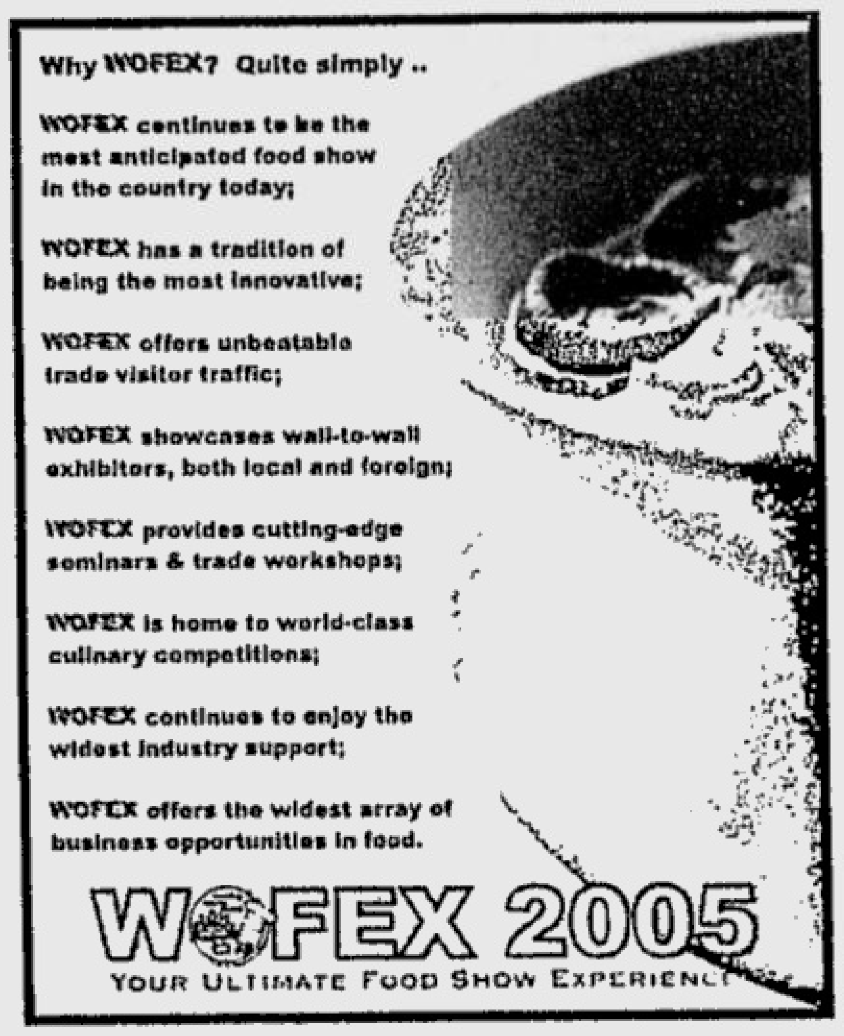

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WOFEX showcases wall-to-wall exhibitors, both local and foreign;

WOFEX provides cutting-edge seminars & trade workshops;

WOFEX is home to world-class culinary competitions;

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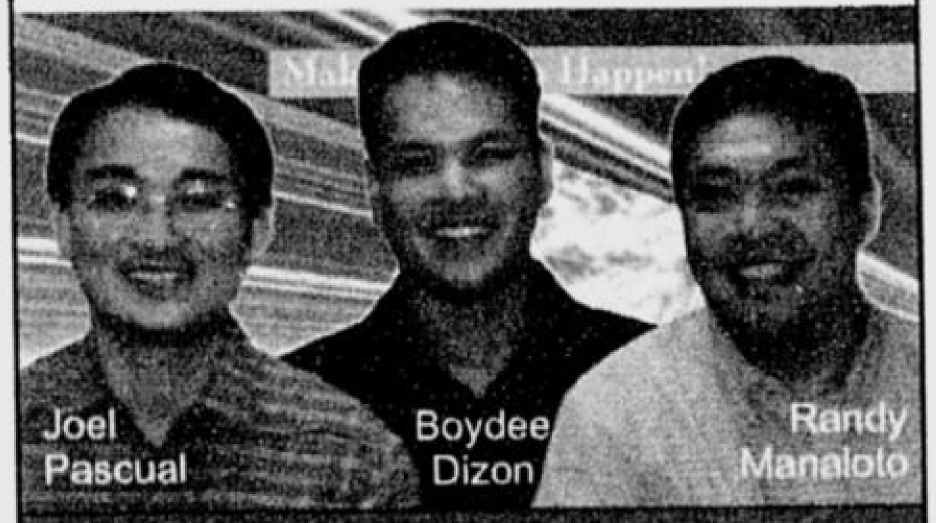

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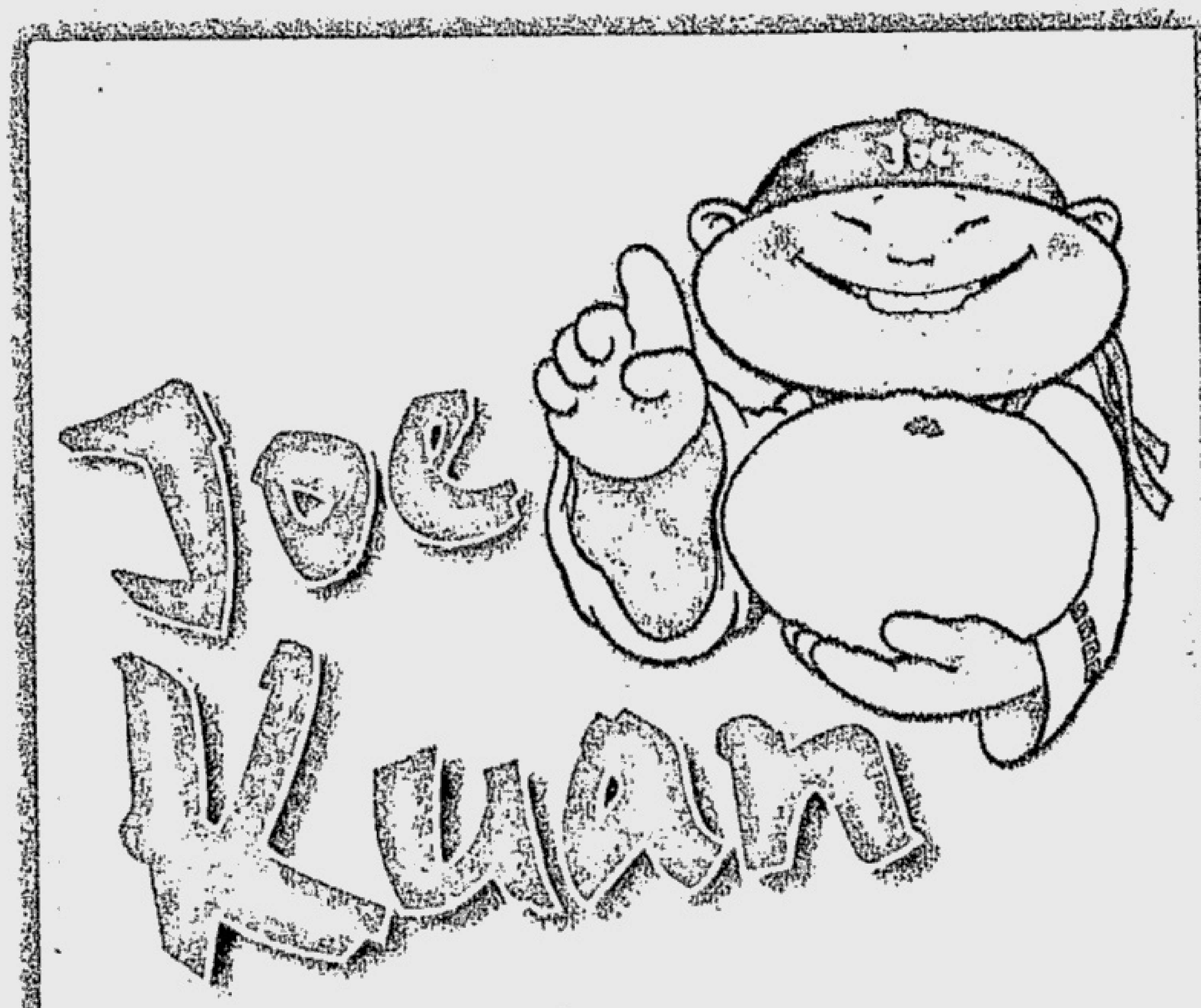

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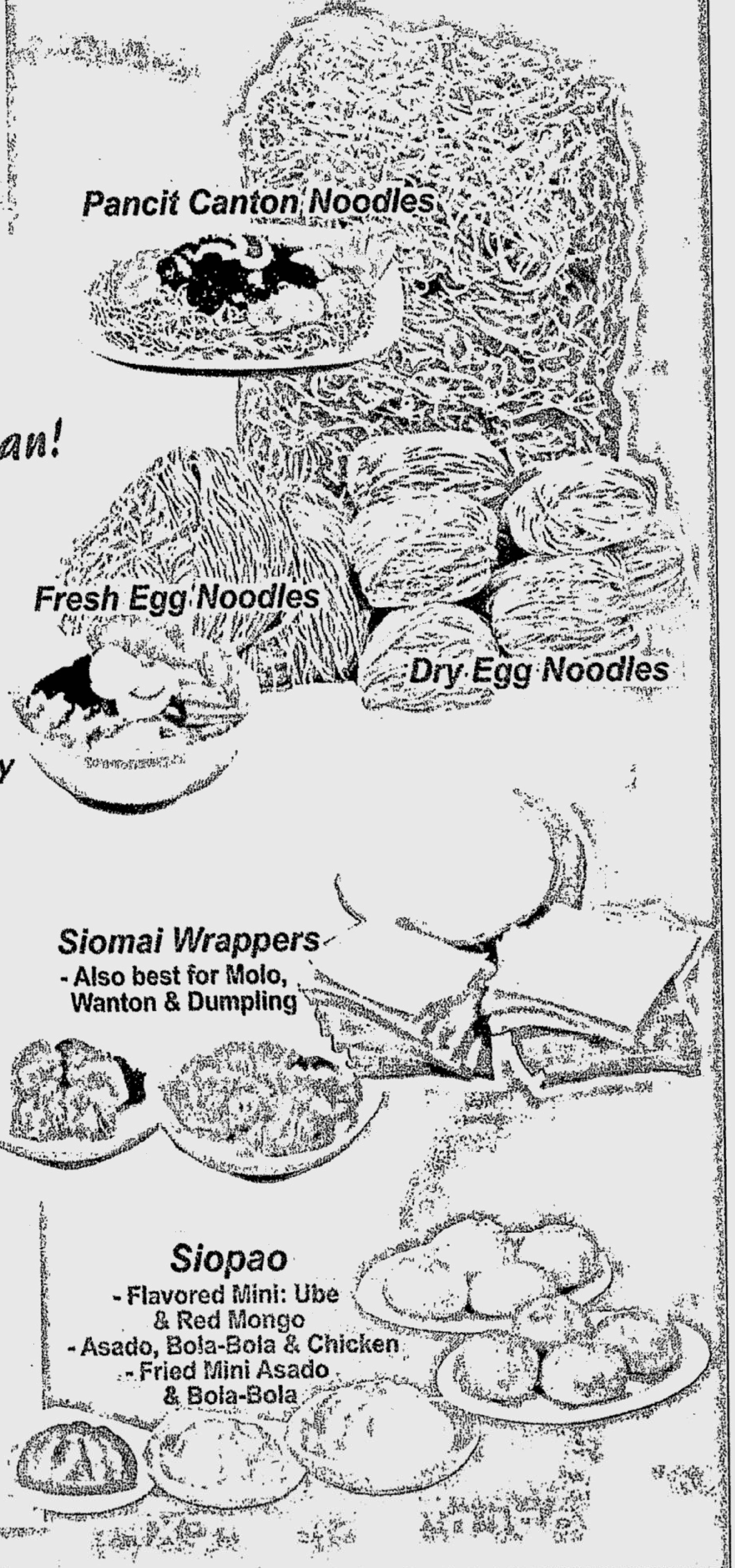

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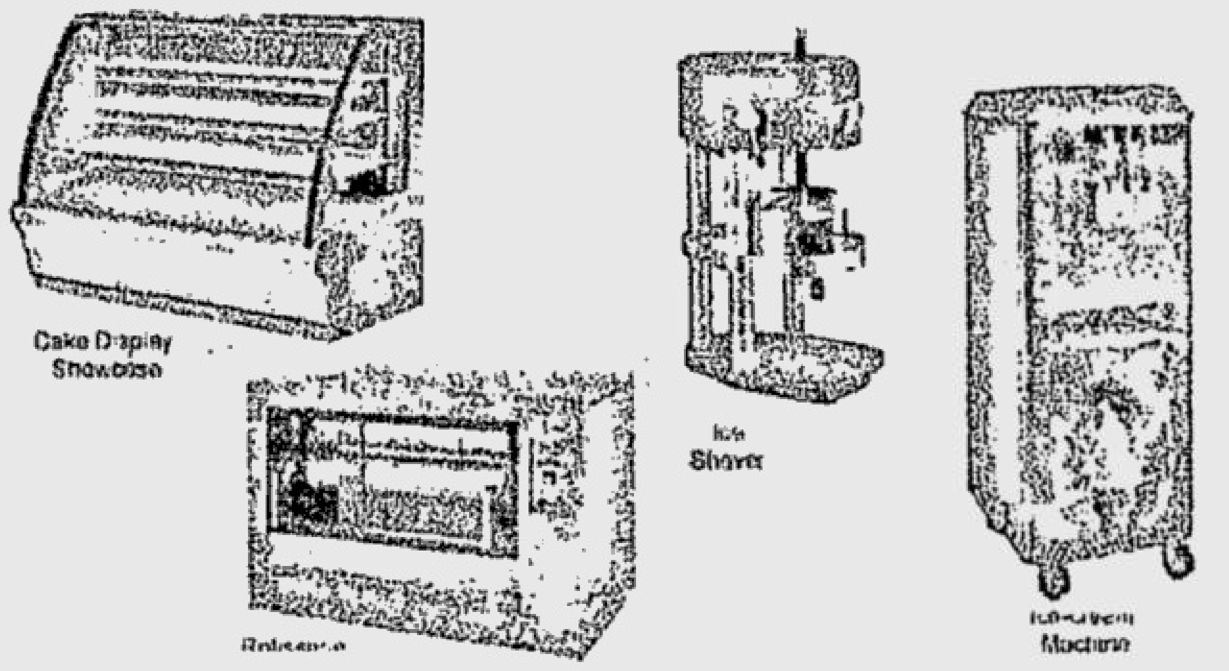

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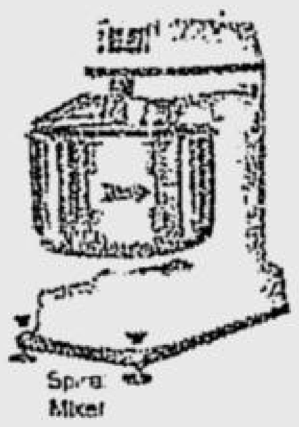

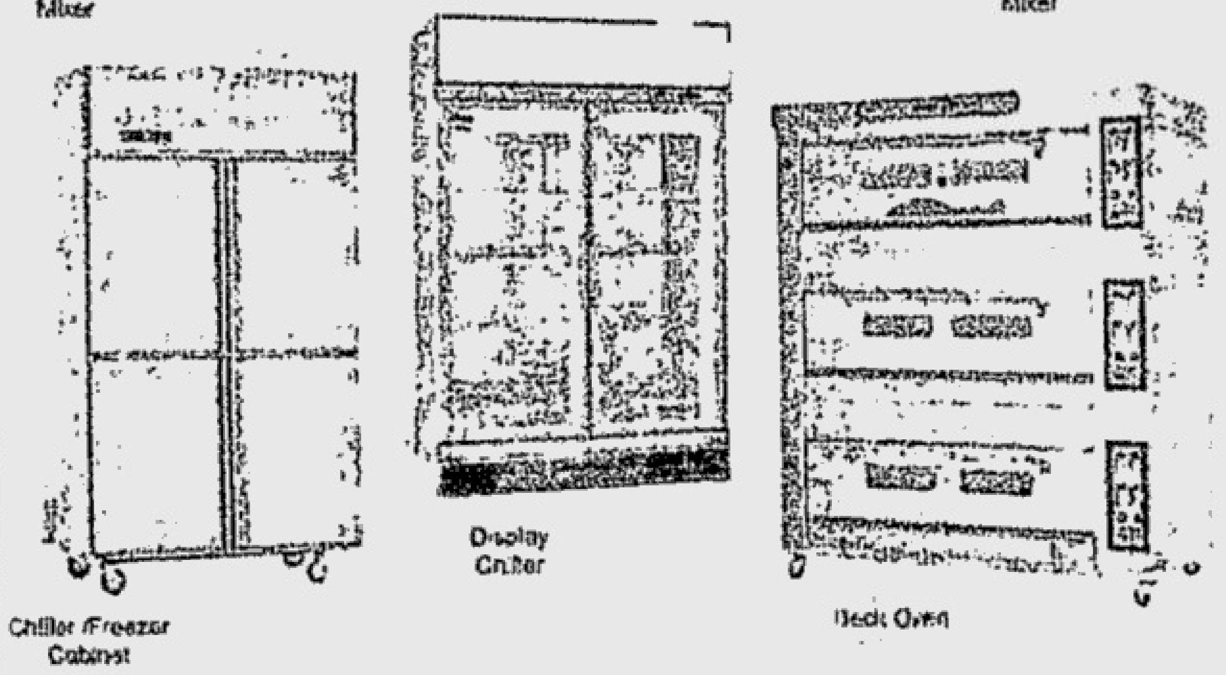

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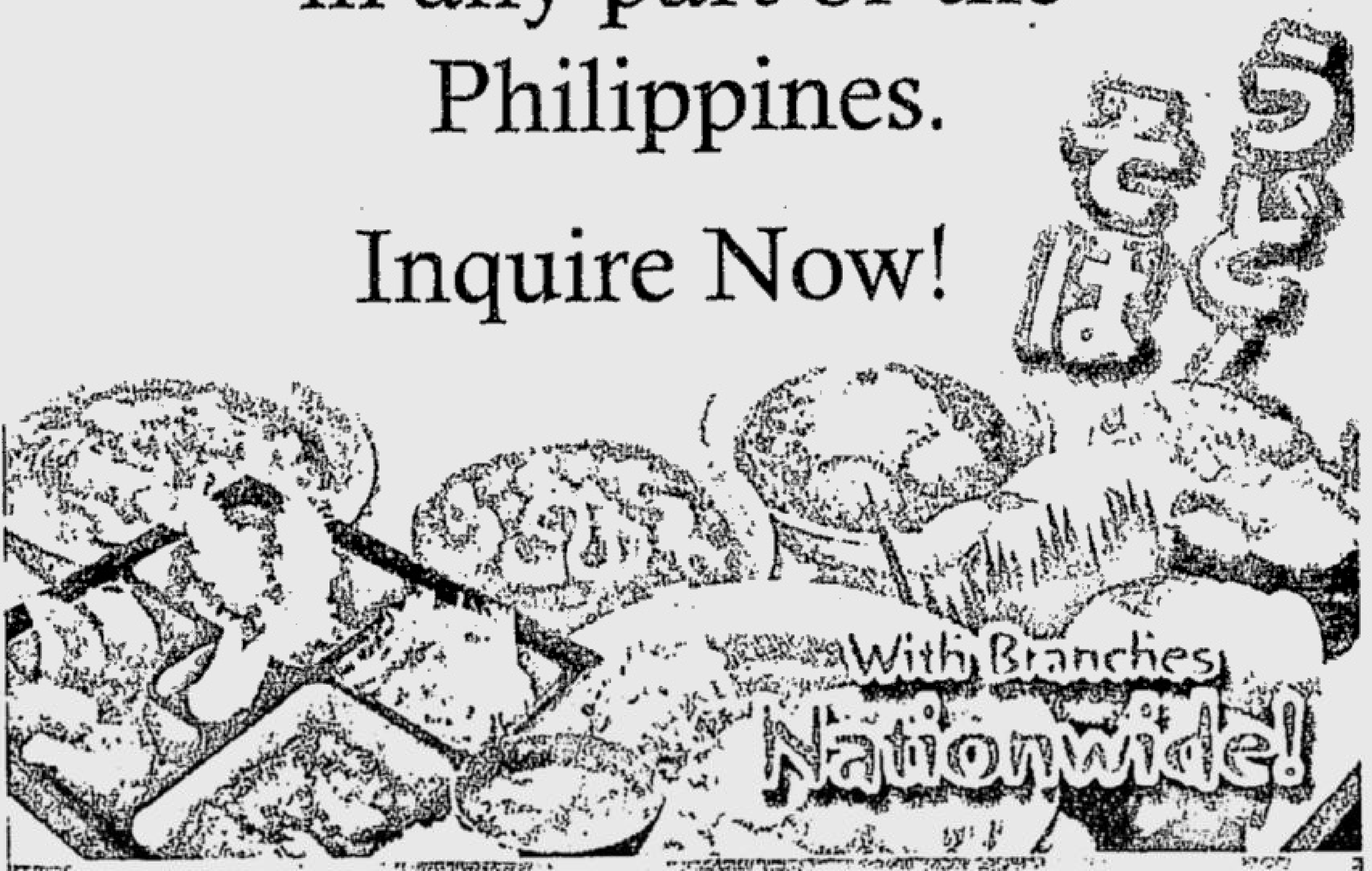
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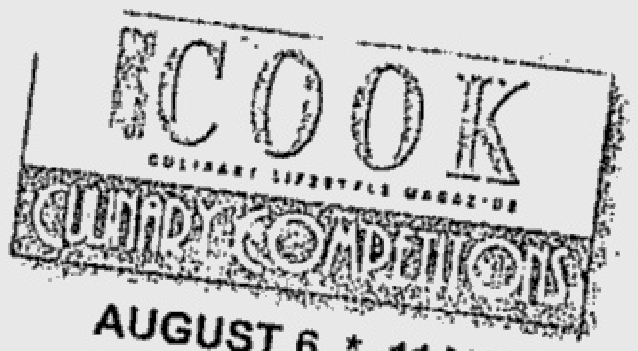
AUGUST 3 * 3PM



AUGUST 6 * 11AM

Nestlé
SCOOPETITION

AUGUST 6 * 4PM

Market Basket Challenge

AUGUST 4 * 3PM

Master Flairtending Competition
"THE NEXT LEVEL"

AUGUST 5 * 3PM

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TASTE EXPO

AUGUST 3 (Wednesday- DAY 1)

11:00AM Halal Cooking with International Chefs by Most Institute
1:00PM Thai Cooking with BNL Inc.
2:00PM Culinary Demo by Scanasia Overseas Inc.
3:00PM **Grand Liquored Coffee Competition with the Philippine Bartender's League (PBL)**

AUGUST 4 (Thursday -DAY 2)

11:00AM Halal Cooking with International Chefs by Most Institute
1:00PM Coffeology By Robert Francisco , Boyd Coffee Co
3:00PM **Hotel &Restaurant Chefs Association of the Philippines (HRCAP) Market Basket Challenge**
5:00PM Demo by Asian Bartending Academy

AUGUST 5 (Friday -DAY 3)

11:00AM Candies &, Marmalade by Spices & Foodmix
1:00PM Cooking Demo by Mega Sardines
2:00PM Cooking Demo by MCN Distributors Inc.
3:00PM **Master Flairtending Competition - The Next Level with the Philippine Bartender's League (PBL)**

AUGUST 6 (Saturday DAY 4)

11:00AM **Culinary Competition by Cook**
2:00PM Culinary Demo of Ajinomoto
3:00PM Baking Demo of Del Monte Philippines
4:00PM **Ice Cream Scoopetition by Nestle Philippines**

EXPO REGULATIONS

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.
Seminars strictly on a first-come-first-serve basis.
Pre-registration recommended for seminars with fee.
P50 entrance fee to exhibit for non-pre-registration.
No one under 16 years old allowed into exhibit hall.
Shorts and slippers not allowed in exhibit hall.
From August 2-6, 2005, you may call Premier Events Plus Group, Inc. at telephone # 551-5224

WORLD FOOD SUMMIT

SEMINAR ROOM A

AUGUST 3 (DAY 1)

11:00AM **How to Manage Your Catering Business (P300)**
2:00PM How to Choose a Safe & Roadworthy Truck for Your Business by BSB Group Inc.
3:00PM Hydrocoloids: Food Design Through Innovative Ingredient Technology by Daffid / ISP

AUGUST 4 (DAY 2)

1:00PM The World Needs Filipino Bartenders by Asian Bartending Academy
3:00PM A Guide To Metal Detection in the Food Processing and Packaging Industries by Handyware Phils.
4:00PM **Frenchbaker Seminar (with fee)**

AUGUST 5 (DAY 3)

1:00PM Getting Into the Donut & Ice Cream Business by Handyware Phils.
2:30PM Sanitation & Preventive Maintenance in the Food Industry by Handyware Philippines
3:00PM **Fruit & Vegetable Carving by HRCAP (P500)**

AUGUST 6 (DAY 4)

1:00PM Seminar by Ajinomoto Philippin
2:00PM **Asian Cuisine & Plating with Chef Manoj da Silva of ISCAHM (P500)**

SEMINAR ROOM B

AUGUST 3 (DAY 1)

12.00NN Ensuring the Success of Your Marketing Plan by Josiah Go, President Mansmith & Fielders Inc.
2:00PM Computerization of Financial & Manufacturing Processes of SMEs by ABM Computech
3:00PM All About Franchising by RK Franchise Consultancy

AUGUST 4 (DAY 2)

1:00PM J Channel Ingredients Workshop/Seminar on Meat Processing

AUGUST 5 (DAY 3)

1:00PM Halal... ...Designing the Future of Food Industry by Most Institute
3:00PM From Pantry to Party (How to Equip Your Catering Business by Micheal Yu of Sunnex
4:00PM Proper Handling of LPG by Petron Gasul Corp.
5:00PM HACCP... A Strategy for Global Competitiveness by Certification International Phils., Inc.

AUGUST 6 (DAY 4)

1:00PM Live Life Better.... Healthy Weight Management by Mind, Body & Soul
2:00PM Getting Into the Cart Business by Sam's Balls Inc.
3:00PM Success Secrets of Chinese Traders by Chefs Pride
4:00PM How to Start a Meat Processing Plant

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"Fruit & Vegetable Carving Seminar"

by HRCAP (Hotel & Restaurant Chefs Association of the Phils.)

P 500.00
August 5, 2005
3:00 - 6:00 PM

"Asian Cuisine and Plating"

by ISCAHM (International School for Culinary Arts and Hotel Management)

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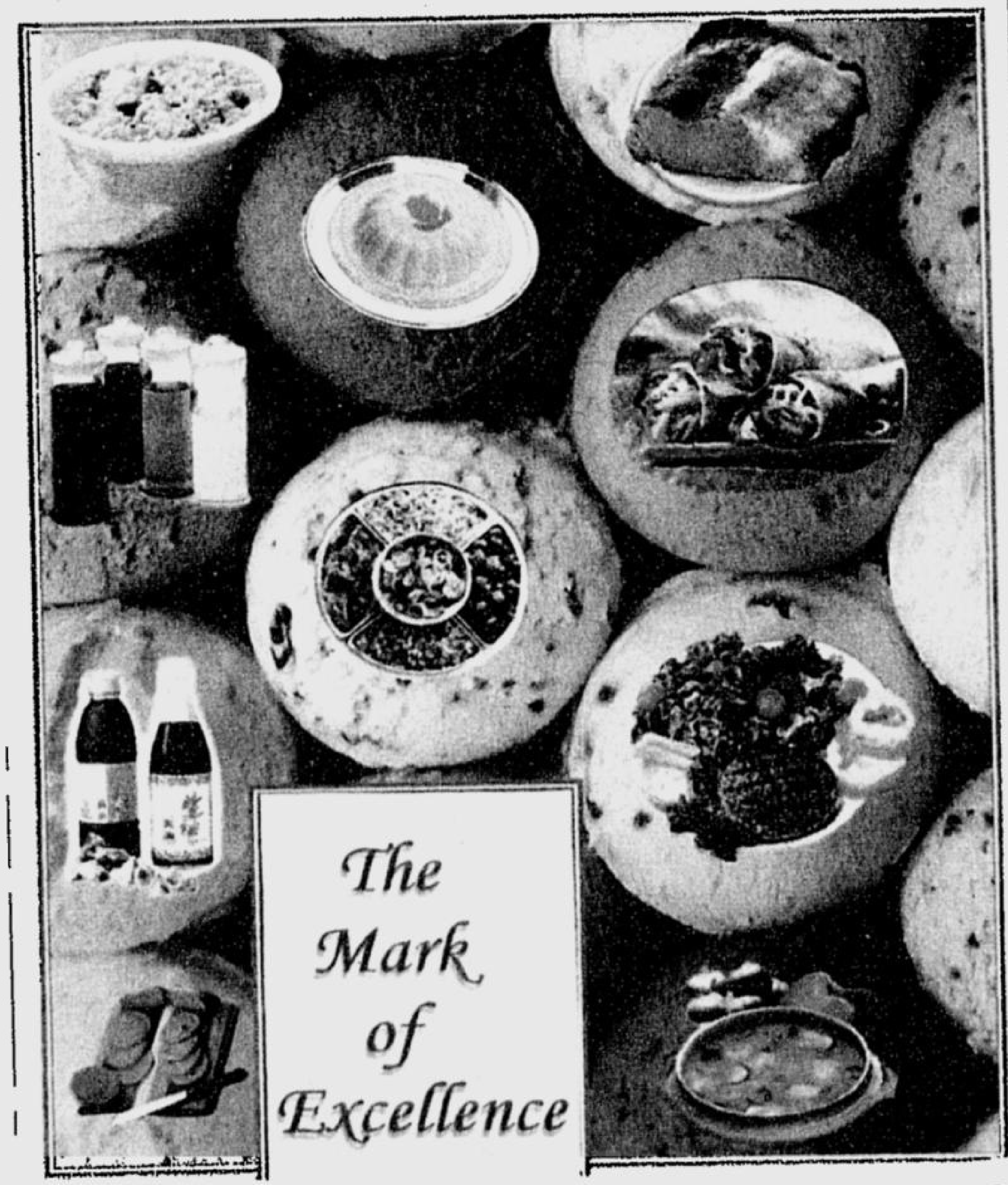
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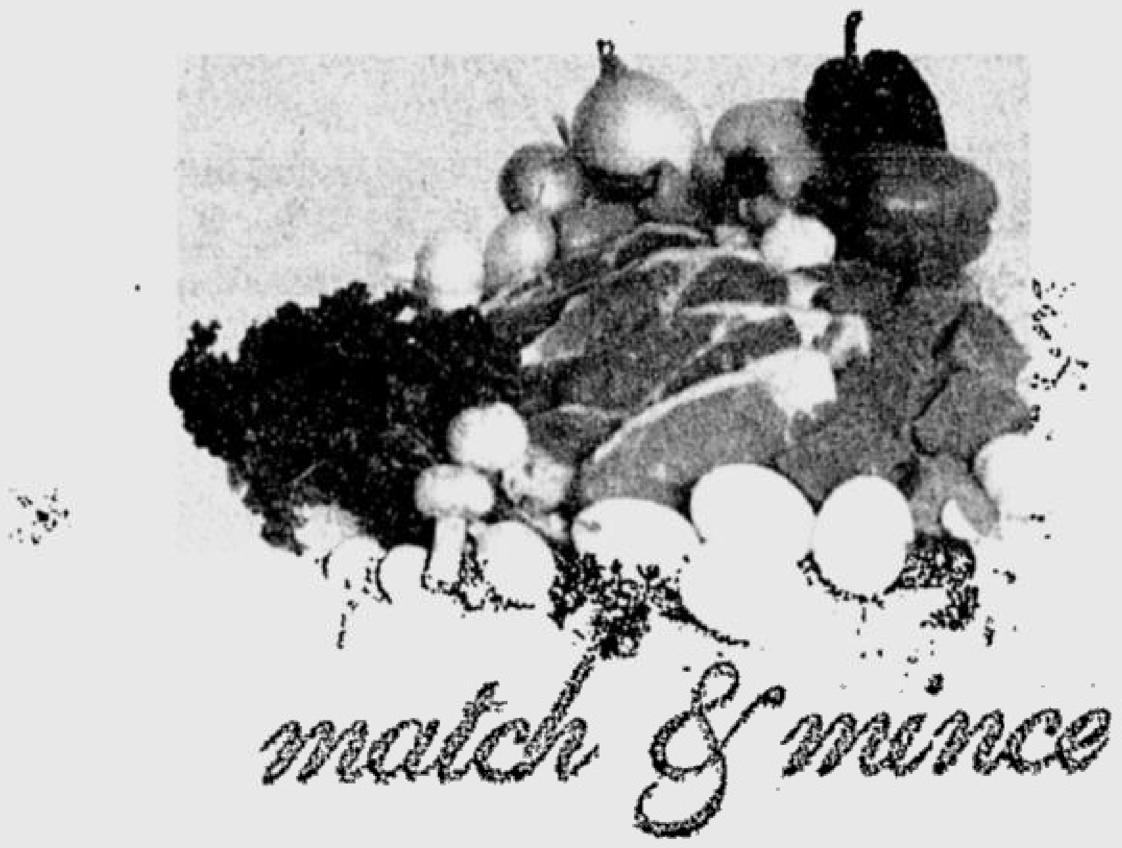
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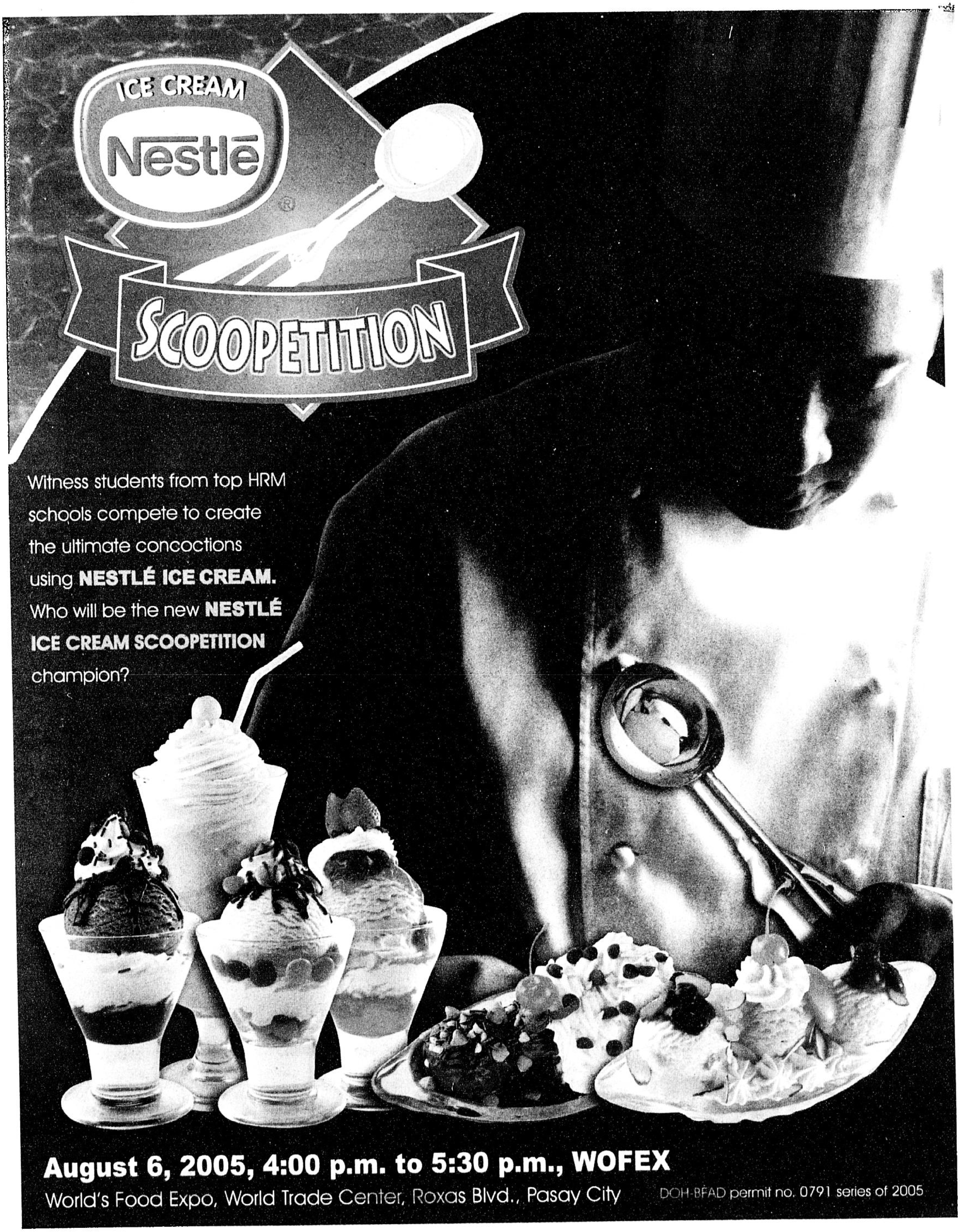

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■ Lifestyle / C2
Lovin' La Vigne, bistro with a short, sweet menu but long wine list

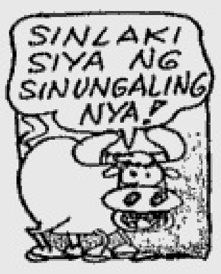
■ Entertainment / A30
'Buzz' scolded for airing Osang accusing Jolo of beating up her daughter

■ News / A3
Pulse Asia survey: GMA approval rating drops to 19%

■ World / A12
Snuppy is world's first dog cloned by S. Korean scientists

■ News / A2
SC rejects TRO to stop ARMM polls

Zuce's 'victim' prefers murderers to liars


SINLAKI SIYA NG SINUNGALING NYA?

By TJ Burgonio

ONE of Michaelangelo Zuce's alleged "victims" said he preferred to be in the company of murderers rather than liars.

Former San Fernando,

ZUCE/ A20

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6,000 doctors studying to be nurses; DOH alarmed

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE BRAIN DRAIN in the country's medical profession has gone from bad to worse.

Around 6,000 licensed doctors are now enrolled in nursing schools, ostensibly to prepare for lucrative jobs abroad, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said yesterday.

6,000 DOCTORS/ A6

Zuce: GMA saw payoffs

Solons try to shake credibility

THE INCREDIBLE HULK? Michaelangelo Zuce looms large as "resource person" at the resumption of the Senate hearing on "jueteng" on Wednesday.

JESS YUSON

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

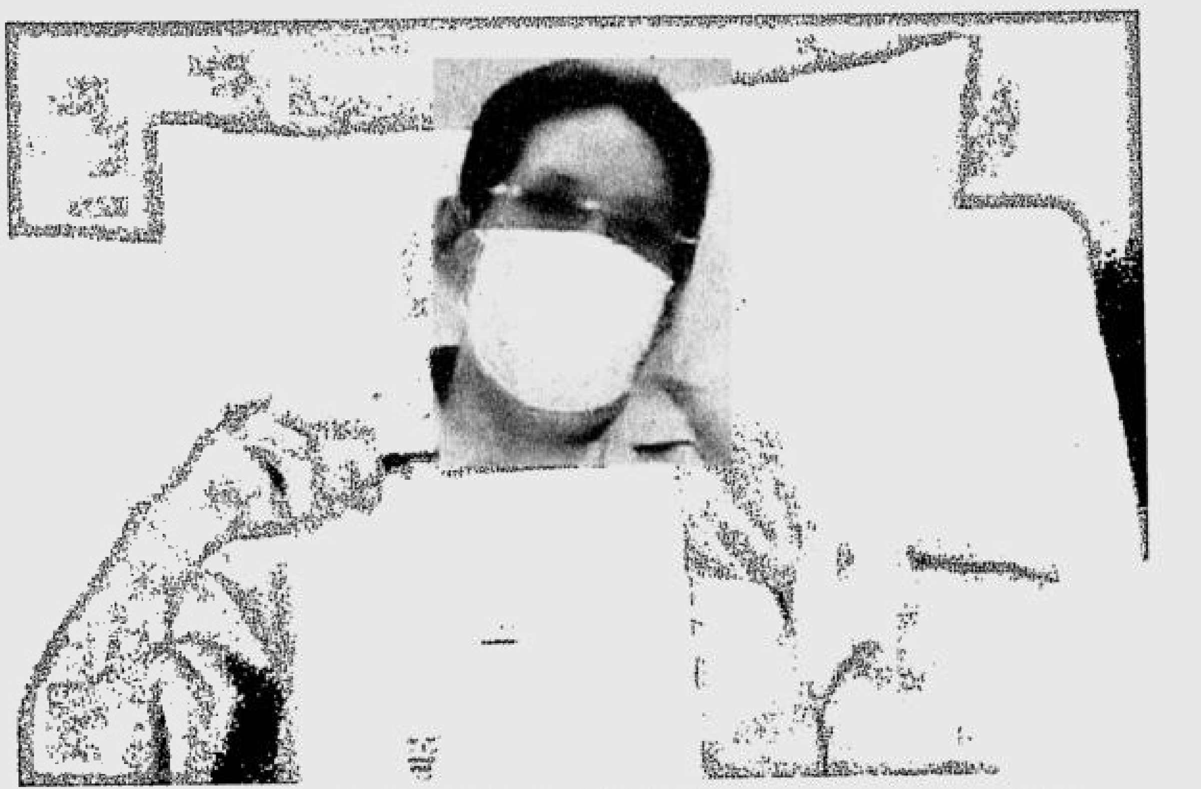
PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo could not have been unaware of the distribution of money—allegedly from the wife of an illegal gambling lord—to poll officials meeting in her home before last year's election, Michaelangelo Zuce said yesterday.

Testifying for five hours before a Senate inquiry, the former Palace operative said the handing out of envelopes, each containing P30,000, to regional election directors and supervisors even caused a commotion while Ms Arroyo was still in her house.

The 30-year-old Zuce surfaced Monday and provided the first eyewitness account of the supposed meeting in Ms Arroyo's residence at the swank La Vista subdivision in Quezon City in January 2004—four months before the May elections.

He said Ms Arroyo appealed to the election officials for help in the balloting. After she left the gather-

ZUCE/ A20



NO LONGER in the ICU, Jose Ma. "Joey" Rufino is now confined in a suite at the Medical City, Pasig, where he's photographed by the INQUIRER holding his statement denying the allegations of his former technical assistant Zuce as "falsehoods" and "wild accusations."

Only child of painter is 'good pa, jealous lover'

By Gerry Lirio

FOR ALL the many things said about him, former Malacañang employee and now whistle-blower Michaelangelo "Louie" Zuce is a good father and husband, albeit a "jealous lover," according to friends of his wife Heidi.

"Louie is a good provider. She (Heidi) never spoke ill of him on that aspect," one of them, who requested anonymity, said.

He and Heidi became friends while waiting to fetch their children who are studying at the Philippine Christian University on Taft Av-

ONLY/ A20

Palace claims 170 congressmen signed to crush impeach bid

By Christine O. Avendaño and Philip C. Tubeza

MALACAÑANG appears to have the numbers to prevent the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo from being sent to the Senate for trial.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday said he was told that 170 members of the House of Representatives had signed a paper that they were against Ms Arroyo's impeachment.

Ermita said the information had given the Palace some assurance that the impeachment complaint would die a natural death in the House.

At a news briefing, Ermita said that if 170 lawmakers were against the impeachment complaint, 66 House members would be left to endorse the complaint, not enough to get the required votes of 79.

Speaker Jose de Venecia gave a bigger number of House members against the impeachment complaint.

In a television talk show the other night, De Venecia said he and Antipolo City Rep. Ronaldo Puno had obtained the "firm" commitments of 189 of the 236-member House to prevent the complaint from being sent to the Senate, "whatever the evidence" to be presented before the justice committee.

Only 41 House members, mostly from the minority, have so far endorsed the impeachment case against the President. For the Articles of Impeachment to be transmitted to the Senate, these must be supported by 79 legislators or 1/3 of the members of the House.

The 41 lawmakers filed an amended impeachment case in the House on July 25, accusing Ms Arroyo of cheating and bribing her way to victory in the 2004 presidential election, benefiting from gambling payoffs, hiding real estate in the United States and complicity in the murder of activists.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said the number that De Venecia had cited was only a "hypothetical calculation" and not a firm estimate of how the majority would vote.

"The number . . . was based on the existing signatures in the complaint as endorsed to the House committee on justice," Nograles said.

PALACE/ A10

Undecided are soul-searching

By Fe Zamora

MALACAÑANG can't be too sure.

The richest member of the House of Representatives, Cynthia Villar, appears to be typical of scores of congressmen: They remain undecided on the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Along with the undecided, Villar is soul searching and analyzing the pros and cons of the case.

The wife of Sen. Manuel Villar has been asking her constituents at random what they would like her to do. So far, the feedback she's been getting is for her to affix her signature to the impeachment complaint.

The people of Las Piñas "are just like most residents of Metro Manila who want the President out," Villar said.

But in last year's polls, Ms Arroyo lost in 14 cities and three municipalities in Metro Manila, and won only in the Villar bailiwick of Las Piñas.

Many lawmakers have not yet decided on whether to sign or not because "there is no need to decide at the moment," Villar said.

"When the deadline comes,

UNDECIDED/ A10

Arrest order out for Garci

By Michael Lim Ubac and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

VOWING to look for him "to the ends of the earth," the House of Representatives yesterday ordered the arrest of former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano after he ignored its summons to appear.

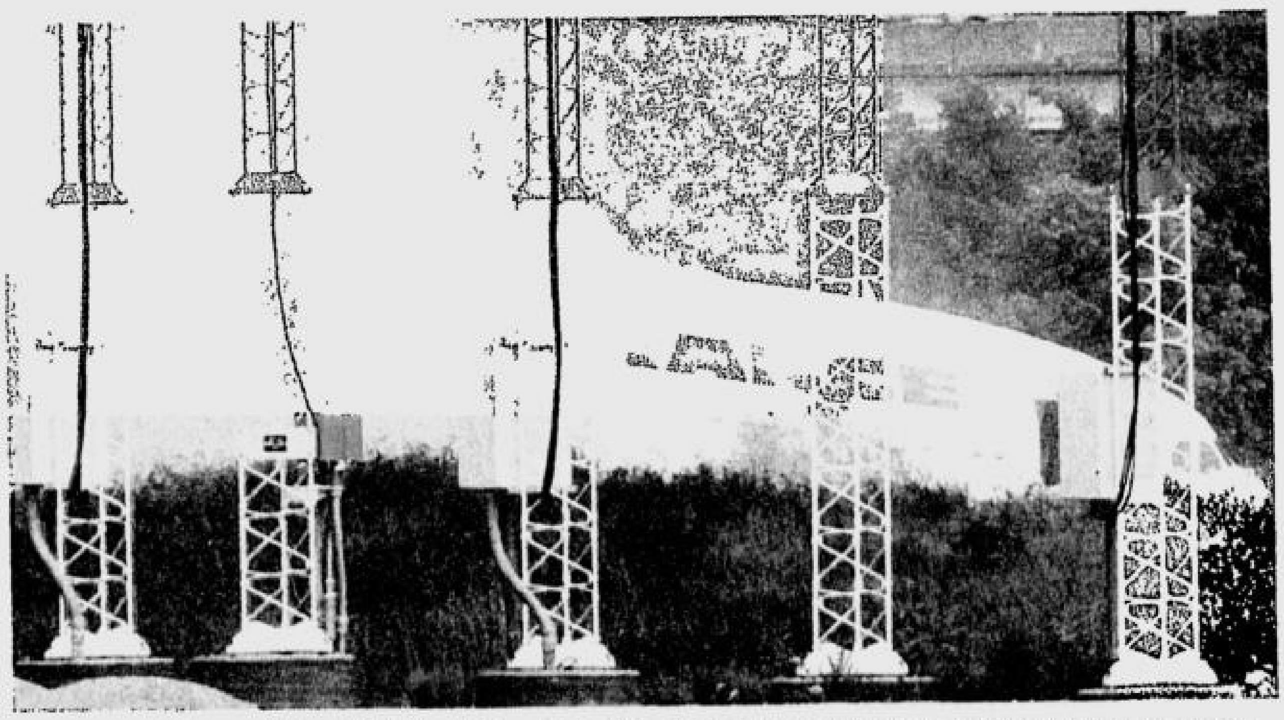
The House is also set to ask the Department of Foreign Affairs to cancel Garcillano's passport, and the Bureau of Immigration to issue a hold-departure order against him.

The lawmakers issued a warrant for his arrest as they wound up their joint inquiry into the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal, which has spurred the filing of impeachment charges against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

With one objection, the plenary issued the warrant at 5:55 p.m. following a motion by Deputy Majority Leader Edcel Lagman.

"To the ends of the earth, we'll look for him," said Rep. Gilbert Remulla, chair of the House committee on public information.

ARREST/ A10



BURNING Air France Airbus A340 flying in from Paris slides down a slope after skidding off the runway upon landing at Toronto's Pearson International Airport amid pouring rain, lightning and thunder.

REUTERS

JOYFUL reunion for a survivor of the crash where all of the 309 passengers and crew members made it to tell the story.

Miracle in the rain: All 309 passengers survive

TORONTO—"It's a miracle."

All 309 passengers and crew aboard a doomed Air France jet survived a dramatic runway crash by sliding down escape chutes from the burning plane and scrambling up a ravine during a pounding thunderstorm.

The plane skidded off the runway at Toronto's Pearson International Airport after landing at around 4 p.m. (2000GMT) Tuesday in a heavy rain storm accompanied by lightning and strong winds, said Steve Shaw, a vice president of the Greater Toronto Airport Authority.

The Airbus A340 slid down a slope into a wooded area that runs along Highway 401, Canada's busiest thoroughfare.

"It's nothing short of a miracle," Canada's Transport Minister Jean Lapierre said after learning everyone on board Air France Flight No. 358 from Paris had survived.

Air France said 22 people were treated for minor injuries, although Shaw said 43 were hurt. Passengers said some of the injured had broken arms and legs.

The first sign of trouble came minutes before landing when the pilot aborted an initial attempt to land the plane because of the storm and powerful winds. About a minute before the plane landed, as it approached the airport for a second time, the lights in the cabin went out, said passenger Olivier Dubois.

"Just before touching ground, it was all black in the plane, there was no more light, nothing," he said.

As the wheels touched down, passengers—their nerves frayed by the darkness inside and outside the cabin and flashes of lightning—burst into applause.

But then the jet thudded on landing, skidded off the runway and burst into flames, passengers

MIRACLE/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will have rains and occasional gusty winds with moderate to occassionally rough seas. The rest of Luzon, Visayas and Western Mindanao will be cloudy with rains. Rains will be frequent over Western Luzon and Western Visayas.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY CYRIL L BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/08/04/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Second FRONT PAGE

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Saguisag escapes contempt, gets slap on the wrist instead

By Nelson F. Flores

THE SANDIGANBAYAN Special Division yesterday admonished lawyer Rene Saguisag for making statements that undermined the credibility of the anti-graft court and issuing offensive remarks against the country's judicial system.

The reminder came after an INQUIRER story quoted Saguisag as saying that the "Sandiganbayan Special Division was programmed to convict deposed President Joseph Estrada" in the plunder charges before the court.

Justice Francisco Villaruz told Saguisag in open court to be more "circumspect" in making any statements "so as not to undermine the confidence of the people in an institution known as the judiciary."

He said that even if Saguisag did not agree with the creation of the Special Division "it is not right for you (Saguisag) to say that the special court was programmed to convict President Estrada."

The Supreme Court, in an en banc decision, had created the Special Division exclusively to hear the plunder case against Estrada.

Justice Teresita de Castro, the division chair, said the special division was created by the Supreme Court on the Sandiganbayan's recommendation.

The high tribunal did not on its own order the creation of the special division, its creation was based on events, particularly the rising number of retiring justices, De Castro said.

No evil intentions

"It is unfair to ascribe evil intentions on the Supreme Court when it created the special division," De Castro said.

Saguisag answered that in claiming that the Sandiganbayan Special Division was programmed to convict Estrada, he was not alluding to any particular magistrate.

What he was questioning was the "the anomalous creation of the Sandiganbayan special court," he said.

Saguisag said this was the perception of his client and he supported Estrada's belief.

"I have been saying this since the beginning and I can no longer take back what I said. Disbarment, imprisonment or lethal injection is too little a price to pay and I am prepared for that," Saguisag said.

He said this was the third time in the country's history that a special tribunal was created to try an individual. He said the first two tribunals were military courts, which convicted the accused – Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita and Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. – despite the weak evidence against them.

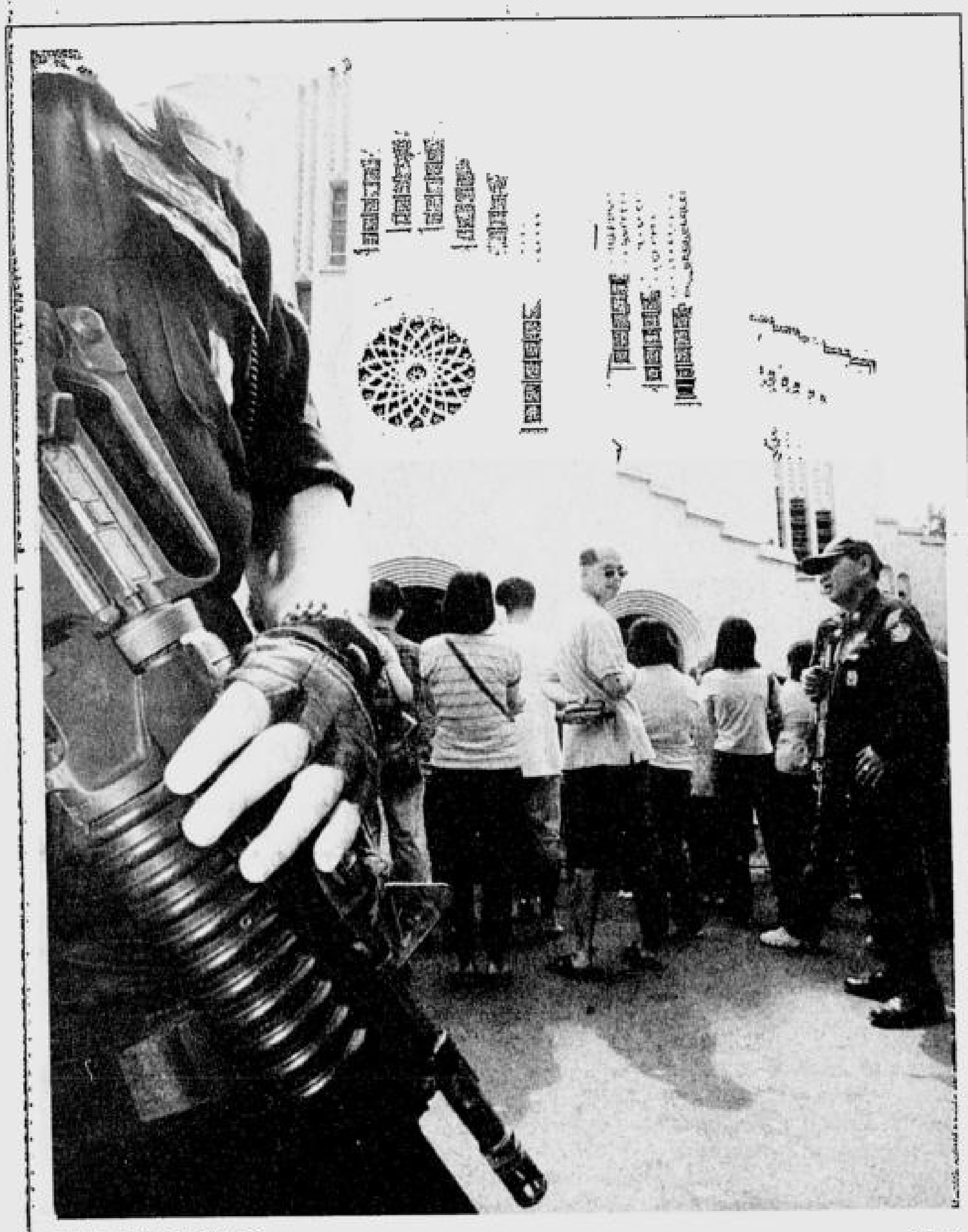
Saguisag accused the Supreme Court of "dishonest representation" when it used what he claimed was a non-existent petition to justify the creation of a special tribunal to hear the plunder case against Estrada. He said the defense had never petitioned the high court to create a special division.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said Saguisag seemed to have forgotten that the defense lawyers themselves had requested the Sandiganbayan for permanent justices to try Estrada as the justices who were assigned earlier were about to retire.

What the Sandiganbayan and the Supreme Court did was a direct response to the defense panel's complaint besides, he said.

He noted that the defense lawyers never made any formal objection to the creation of the Special Division.

Aside from De Castro and Villaruz, the other members of the Special Division are Justices Diosdado Peralta, as regular division member; and Rodolfo Ponferrada, Ma. Cristina Estrada and Godofredo Legaspi, as alternate members.



UNDER GUARD REUTERS
Fully-armed policemen stand guard among church goers at the Redemptorist Church in Baclaran as police and military forces raised the security alert against terrorist attacks nationwide. Among those placed under tight security are churches and market places.

There's no stopping ARMM polls; SC refuses to issue TRO

By Armand N. Nocum

THERE is no more stopping the holding of elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao on Aug. 8 after the Supreme Court refrained from issuing a temporary restraining order against it, as two Mindanao congressmen had requested.

Ismael Khan, the head of the SC information office, said that the issue was on the agenda of the high court's en banc session Tuesday, "but it did not issue a TRO."

"Unless the SC calls for a special session and issues a TRO, the ARMM elections will push through," Khan said.

"If there's no special session, the petition will likely become moot and academic because the next session of the court will be on Aug. 9, a day after the ARMM elections," he said.

Deputy House Speaker Gerry Salappudin and party-list Rep. Mujiv S. Hataman had petitioned the court to stop the elections, citing fears that the Commission on Elections may not be capable of keeping the elections clean.

The two assailed the alleged unconstitutionality of the law setting the date for the elections and the huge expense incurred by the government in the ARMM polls.

'Birds and bees'

In his 31-page petition, the Hataman pointed to alleged widespread election irregularities in past ARMM elections, noting how in ARMM, the "votes cast exceeded that province's (ARMM) population."

"Here, a pleader mused and offered the explanation that the birds and bees and the ghosts might have voted as well," said Hataman.

The ARMM areas have recently figured as the site of alleged election rigging as shown by an audio tape showing the President allegedly taking part in an attempt to rig the elections.

Respondents in the complaint were Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and former Budget Secretary Emilio Boncodin.

Salappudin and Hataman also assailed the provisions of Republic Act 9333 fixing the ARMM elections to Aug. 8, saying this violated constitutional provisions on the conduct of synchronized national and local elections on the second Monday of May every three years.

The Comelec has accredited about 40 foreigners to observe the ARMM elections next Monday.

US delegation

The United States is sending the largest delegation with 22 members, including eight mid-level embassy officials and four officials from the International Foundation for Election Systems.

Other foreign observers, mostly diplomats, include 11 Canadians, three Britons, two Australians, one each from New Zealand and Malaysia.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said the presence of the foreign observers will help ensure that the ARMM elections would be free, honest and fair in the eyes of the international community.

On Monday, some two million voters in the ARMM will elect a governor, a vice governor and 24 members of a regional legislative assembly.

The Comelec said it would entertain applications for election observer status from other Muslim countries and the Organization of Islamic Conference which is backing autonomy for the ARMM.

PNP monitoring

Under Resolution No. 7527 dated July 15, Comelec allowed foreigners, both working in the government or the private sector, to observe the conduct of elections in the five provinces and one chartered city of the ARMM.

The Philippine National Police is sending five police generals from Camp Crame to monitor the ARMM elections, according to Avelino Razon, deputy director of the national police directorial staff.

Razon said the police generals, to be called "national police liaison officers," would be in place by Friday.

He reminded police officers in the region to stay neutral.

"They should remain apolitical. Their only participation should be when they are casting their ballots," he said.

Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, the PNP spokesperson, said the situation in the region remained calm, with no reports of election-related violence.

Aside from 6,400 policemen assigned in the region, operatives from the Regional Mobile Groups from neighboring regions would be deployed in the ARMM, Bataoil said.

No serious threats

ARMM regional director Sukarno Ikbala said no serious threats from armed groups are expected.

He said eight candidates are running for governor while nine candidates are running for vice governor.

"This is our time to show we can have a very credible and peaceful elections," he said.

Razon said the following police generals would be deployed in the five ARMM provinces: Chief Supt. Silverio Alarcio Jr. for Maguindanao, Chief Supt. Eliseo dela Paz for Lanao del Sur, Chief Supt. Luisito Palmera for Tawi Tawi, Chief Supt. Samson Tucay for Basilan and Chief Supt. Charlemagne Alejandrino for Sulu.

A militant Muslim group yesterday said the ARMM elections should not be held after peace negotiations between the government and the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front have "redefined the formation of a new government body in Mindanao."

The Moro-Christian People's Alliance said there have to be changes in the structure and formation of a Mindanao government that would "truly represent" the Muslim people before the ARMM elections. *With reports from Jerome Aning, Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and Jocelyn R. Uy*

SC lifts tariffs on Portland cement

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SUPREME Court yesterday stopped the Department of Trade and Industry from further imposing tariffs on imported Portland cement, saying it was illegal.

In a 92-page decision, the SC said the DTI can no longer enforce such "safety measures" which were earlier sought by local cement manufacturers to protect the industry from unfair competition posed by cheap cement imports.

In a decision penned by Associate Justice Dante Tinga, the SC en banc also barred the DTI secretary from granting an extension in the imposition of the safeguard measures, as requested by local cement companies.

The ruling affirmed the July 8, 2004 decision of the high court's second division voiding the provisional measure by the DTI of imposing a P20.60 tariff for every 40-kilogram bag of cement since Nov. 7, 2001 up to the present.

In denying the motions for reconsideration of DTI and the local cement manufacturers, the court cited the provisions of R.A. No. 8800, or the Safeguard Measures Act (SMA), which provides for the manner of imposition of emergency measures, including tariffs, to protect domestic industries from increased imports that could hurt local industries.

The high court specifically cited Section 5 of the SMA provides that "the Secretary shall apply a general safeguard measure upon a positive final determination of the [Tariff] Commission" that importation of a product is hurting the local industry.

"It is evident from the text of Section 5 that there must be a positive final determination by the Tariff Commission that a product is being imported into the country in increased quantities... as to be a substantial cause of serious injury or threat to the domestic industry," the SC said.

The SC noted that despite the findings of the Tariff Commission that there was no threat of injuries as feared by local cement manufacturers, the DTI secretary still imposed the safeguard measures.

"Nowhere in the SMA does it state that the DTI secretary may impose general safeguard measures without a positive final determination by the Tariff Commission, or that the DTI secretary may reverse or even review the factual determination made by the Tariff Commission," the high court said.

Besides, the SC noted that DTI and the local cement manufacturers do not challenge the constitutionality of the SMA.

Magazine editor gets death threat in wreath

By Alcuin Papa

AN EDITOR of Newsbreak magazine yesterday claimed to have received a death threat on Tuesday night, presumably for stories critical of the military.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER, Newsbreak managing editor Glenda Gloria said a wreath of flowers meant for the dead was delivered to her residence in Quezon City at about 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday. The wreath read:

"Condolence from your loving friends."

Gloria said the deed was "meant to scare the family."

"While we know that threats come with our job, we do not take this lightly," Newsbreak editor-in-chief Marites Vitug said in a statement.

"By letting the public know of this incident, we hope to get the best protection for Ms Gloria and Newsbreak," she said.

Gloria said the delivery boy told her that a man in his 30s and riding a black car had bought the wreath from their flower shop on Araneta Ave.

The man claimed to be an employee of the company where Gloria was employed and instructed the delivery boy to take the wreath to two addresses: Gloria's old address appearing on her Smart cell phone bill, and her family home.

The man, who gave his address as "Metro Manila," also said the delivery was a rush job and paid P1000 for the wreath. He gave specific instructions to the delivery boy that if Gloria was not to be found at the first address "where she rents," the wreath should be delivered to the second address.

Gloria's more recent articles dealt with the military. In the Newsbreak's July 4 issue, she wrote that the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces (Isafp) was the primary suspect in the wiretap scandal involving President Macapagal-Arroyo and former election commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

In the magazine's latest issue, Gloria wrote on the alleged participation of some military officials in electoral fraud in the 2004 elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

On Wednesday, the military announced it has formed a fact-finding board to look into alleged wrongdoing by armed forces officers who acted as "election deputies" last year and summoned officers mentioned in the wiretap.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) and the Belgium-based International Federation of Journalists issued separate statements expressing concern over the threat and urged the government to investigate.

"The incident shows that the enemies of press freedom in this country are still at it, trying to instill fear in the heats of journalists," the NUJP said in a statement.

More than 65 journalists have been slain in the Philippines in the past 19 years, including six this year alone. The alarming number of killings has prompted the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists to describe the Philippines as the world's "most murderous" country for reporters.

IFJ president Christopher Warren said the government must stand up for journalist's rights and investigate the threat.

"Considering the terrible record of ruthless and deadly attacks against journalists in the Philippines, the government must recognize the seriousness of death threats against journalists and investigate these incidents," he said in a statement.

NDF leaders to lose immunity, face arrest

ABOUT 97 National Democratic Front members now face arrest after the government announced yesterday that it was suspending indefinitely their immunity guarantees, citing the NDF's "unilateral abandonment of the peace negotiations."

Because of the NDF decision to back out of the peace talks, the immunity for rebel leaders, including Jose Ma. Sison and Luis Jalandoni, who played roles in the negotiations has been lifted, said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

Ermita said the government peace panel would officially serve notice of the termination of immunity, or the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (Jasig), to the NDF yesterday. It would be in effect 30 days after receipt of the notice.

If the NDF were to receive the notice tomorrow, Aug. 4, by Sept. 4 or 5 the authorities could arrest those NDF members who are in the military order of battle or have arrest warrants issued against them, Ermita explained.

It takes 2 to talk

"It takes two sides to talk peace and if one side has withdrawn, there is no more justification for the Jasig, which guarantees the free and unobstructed movement of 97 members of the NDF in furtherance of the peace talks," he said.

The two sides had signed an agreement on safety and immunity guarantees that allowed the NDF members to move freely around the country without fear of arrest during negotiations.

At a news briefing, Ermita said the government viewed the NDF as having pulled out of the peace negotiations after the statements made in the media by Jalandoni, the NDF chief negotiator, which he noted came at the "height of destabilization" moves against the Arroyo administration.

"Abandonment of the talks is an abandonment of the people," said Ermita, but added that the government was urging the NDF to return to the negotiating table.

The NDF, the political wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, last month said there was no longer any sense pursuing peace talks with President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is under threat of impeachment over allegations she rigged the May 2004 presidential vote.

'Vague' position

Jalandoni said the rebels would prefer to wait for a new administration to be in place before resuming the peace process.

According to Ermita, the government peace panel headed by Nieves Confesor had recommended the suspension of Jasig.

Told that NDF leaders had clarified that they were just postponing the talks and that there was no intention of withdrawing, Ermita said the government should take "some definite positions" because its counterparts were making its stand "vague."

He said the NDF leaders were probably doing this because they were concerned about the effects on their people, particularly those listed in the Jasig.

Ermita said things could not just stay "in limbo," and chided NDF leaders for their penchant for announcing their positions to media rather than communicating them to the government peace panel.

Asked to clarify his statement urging the NDF to return to the negotiating table, Ermita said: "It is one way of saying that we have not totally closed the door because as much as possible we want peace in the Philippines."

Asked whether the government would seek the expulsion of Sison and other NDF leaders in the Netherlands where they are based, Ermita said this has been always been the government's position.

He said the government had filed cases against Sison two years ago. But Ermita said he had learned that the Dutch government would not likely agree to a Philippine request to expel Sison.

In his statement, Ermita said the suspension of the immunity agreement would have no effect on the provisions of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.

"The government shall continue to uphold human rights and democratic principles as enshrined in the Constitution and universally accepted standards," he said. *Christine Avendaño*

Ka Roger laughs off threat on DOJ chief

LUCENA CITY — Communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal had a good laugh over the claim of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez that a New People's Army hit squad plans to assassinate him.

"That's not true. Political assassination is not one of NPA works, much less with the kind of Mr. Gonzalez. He is now considered politically dead. He does not have political bearings anymore. He is not worthy of our Red fighters' time," Rosal said in a cell phone interview.

He added that with Gonzalez' penchant for sowing intrigues, deception and loose talks as one of the key officials of the crumbling GMA regime, he was even more beneficial to the rebels.

"Why should we kill him?" Rosal said.

But the Philippine National Police does not find the alleged death threats funny.

"We will coordinate closely with the security officer of the DOJ for the acceptable security coverage of the secretary," PNP spokesperson Leopoldo Bataoil said in a text message yesterday.

Gonzalez himself announced on Tuesday that communist assassins had been deployed to kill him, citing a four-page report from the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Despite Rosal's denial, Bataoil said the PNP would take the threat seriously.

"CPP-NPA leaders usually say something but do otherwise being the master of deception," he said. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.***

PULSE ASIA SURVEY

GMA rating dips further

By Norman Bordadora

NOTWITHSTANDING favorable reviews from the international community, including one in which a US business magazine dubbed her the world's fourth most powerful woman, President Macapagal-Arroyo has received her lowest approval rating yet from Filipinos.

Ms Arroyo's approval rating—already at a record low of 25 percent in June—further dropped to just 19 percent in July, an independent polling firm reported yesterday.

Pulse Asia Inc. said the disapproval rating of the President increased 12 percentage points from 46 percent in June to 58 percent in July.

The polling firm said it conducted the survey from July 2 to July 14 on its own. The survey, covered 1,200 adults and had a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level.

"The political and economic problems that hit the country in the second quarter of 2005 took their toll not only on President Arroyo but also on the other top national government officials and the national administration as a whole," said Ana Maria Tabunda, Pulse Asia executive director.

Tabunda said the political and economic crises resulted in the decline of approval ratings of Vice President Noli de Castro, Senate President Franklin Drilon, Speaker Jose de Venecia and Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

"At present, none of the country's top government officials score a majority approval rating," she said.

Pulse Asia said the decline in approval ratings affected even those who do not support Ms Arroyo in her bid to weather the political crisis.

"The disillusionment is not only with those who support (Ms Arroyo) but with all politicians," said Felipe Miranda, Pulse Asia research director. "While people think all politicians are rotten, what (immediately) comes to their mind is the one in power," he told the INQUIRER.

The highest approval rating by far is that of Vice President Noli de Castro with 44 percent, according to results of the survey. De Castro had a 58 percent approval rating just a month before.

The Vice President's disapproval rating went up to 27 percent from 20 percent in June.

The approval rating of Drilon dropped 12 percentage points from a high 51 percent in June to 39 percent in July. Drilon and the Liberal Party, which he chairs, have called on Ms Arroyo to resign.

His disapproval rating also went up nine percentage points, from 17 percent in June to 26 percent in July.

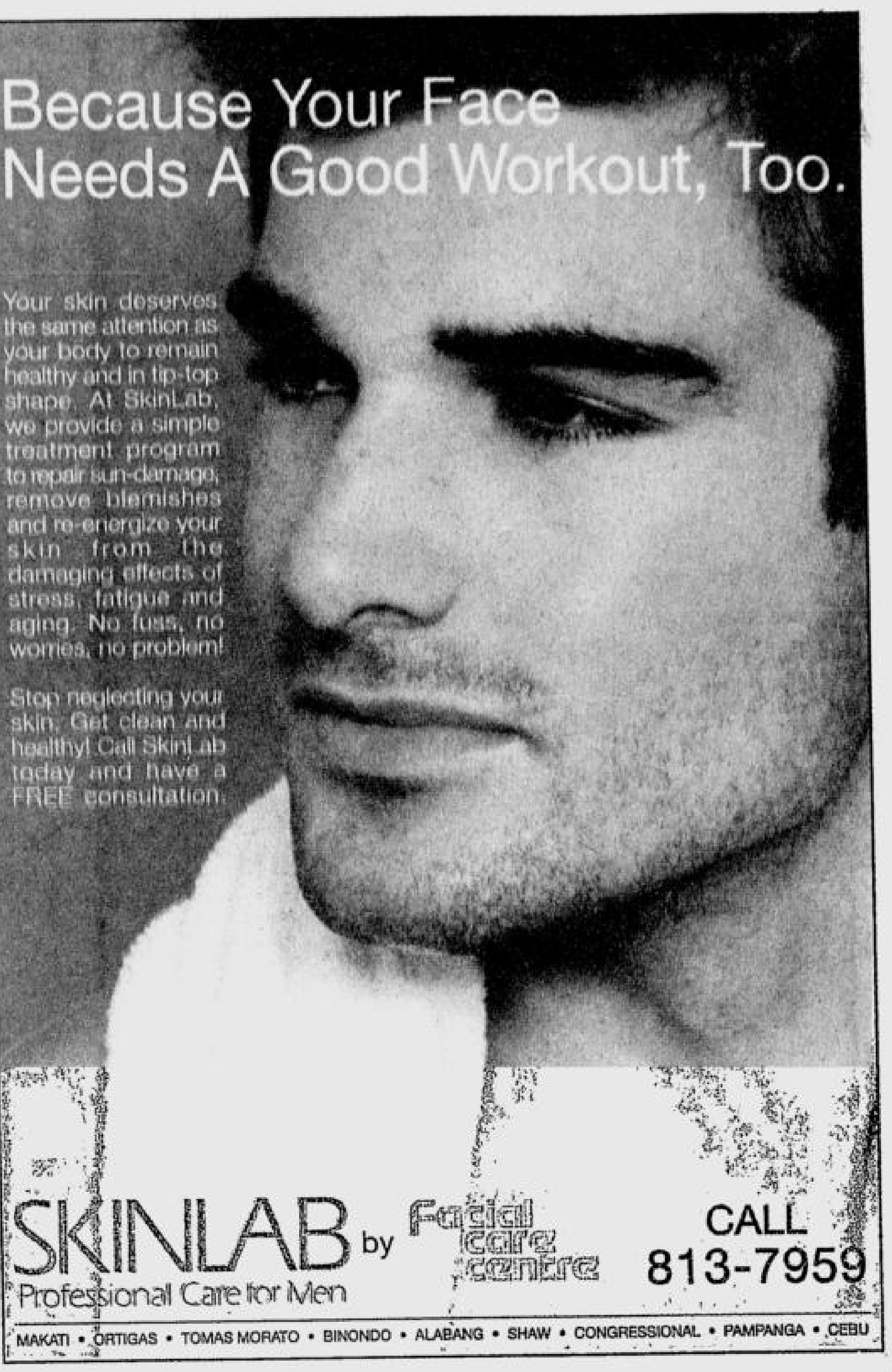
The approval rating of De Venecia, one of Ms Arroyo's staunchest allies, fell from 40 percent in June to 31 percent in July, while that of Davide's dropped from 41 percent to 31 percent.

Asked if the low approval ratings of the top officials showed a general distaste for politics, Miranda said: "That has long been a sentiment of the public."

The survey was conducted right about the time when Ms Arroyo's legitimacy and integrity were questioned with the resignations of key Cabinet officials, quit calls from erstwhile allies Corazon Aquino and Drilon.

It was also the time when a mammoth anti-Arroyo demonstration was staged on Ayala Avenue in Makati City, the country's financial district.

The survey showed that controlling inflation and reducing poverty were the top two most urgent national concerns of Filipinos.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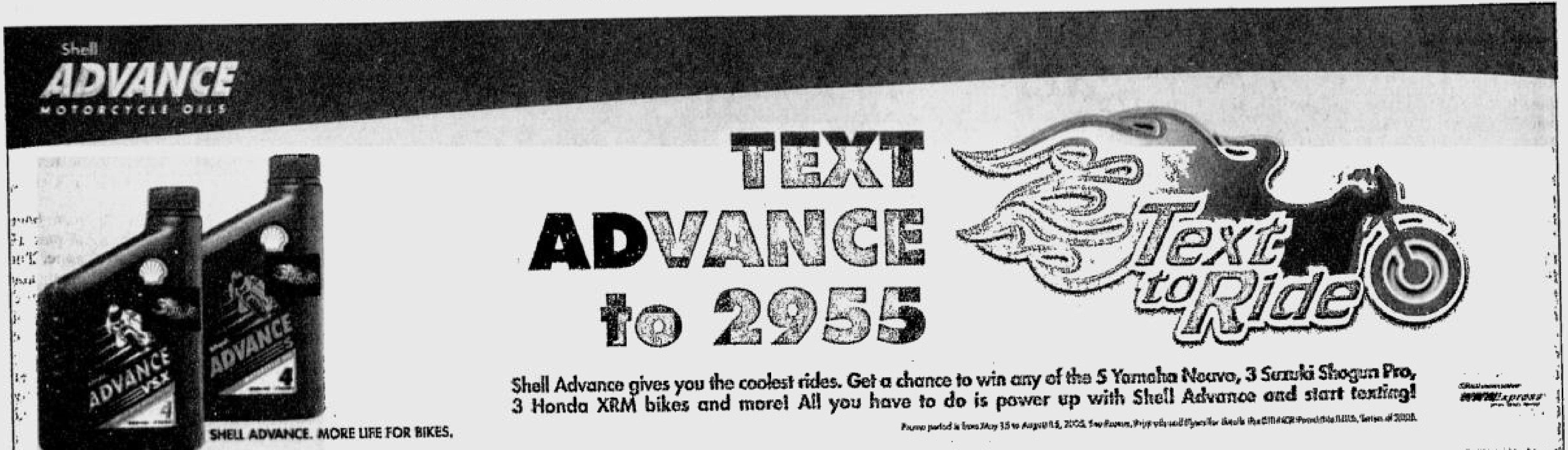
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4th Placer, June 1955 CPA Board Exams

Ms. CORAZON S. DE LA PAZ
President-CEO, Social Security System
UE BBA 1960, Magna Cum Laude
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Ms. PATRICIA N. ARCHES
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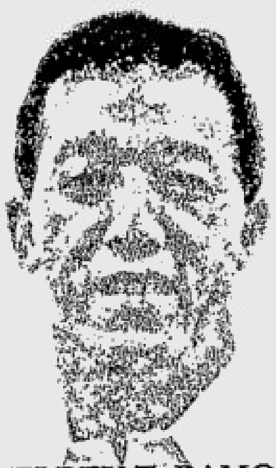
Mr. MANUEL M. LOPEZ
Chairman-CEO and
former President,
Manila Electric Company
UE BBA 1967



Mr. ELREY T. RAMOS
President-COO, East West Banking Corporation
UE BSA 1971,
Magna Cum Laude
1st Placer, November 1971 CPA Board Exams

Engr. EFREN R. ABRATIQUE
President, Board of Building and Safety Commission,
Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety
President, Abratique and Associates
President, SafeProbe, Inc.
UE BSCE 1975

Mr. BENJAMIN J. YAMBAO
President-CEO, Manila Banking Corporation
President, Chamber of Thrift Banks
UE BBA 1966

Ms. SUSAN REYES-FIGUERAS
President-CEO,
Insular Life Savings and Trust Company
UE BSA 1966

Atty. MENARDO G. MATEO
President-CEO, Philips Electronics & Lighting Inc.
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6,000 doctors studying to be nurses; DOH alarmed

From page A1

The number is more than double the 2,000 doctors studying to become nurses last year, Duque said.

Other professionals, too

Not only doctors are turning a moist eye on working abroad as nurses. Other professionals like accountants, engineers and even lawyers have also been shifting to nursing, the official said, citing information from the Commission on Higher Education.

"This is extremely threatening the health care system," Duque said in a press conference at the Manila Hotel.

Bu Castro, president of the Philippine Medical Association, earlier estimated that around 30 percent of the 100,000 registered doctors had settled to work in North America.

Eye docs, too

Even the country's traditionally lean population of ophthalmologists has not been spared from the exodus, according to Dr. Marcelino Banzon, president of the Philippine Academy of Ophthalmologists (PAO).

"Because we do not increase (in number) so much, we're no longer spared," he said in the same press conference.

Banzon said the country had only around 1,200 ophthalmologists, around 400 of whom are based in Metro Manila. The rest are distributed in other major cities and far-flung areas in the country.

Proposals

Duque said the Department of Health was now coordinating with Congress for a law that would require medical graduates to work for a specific period in the Philippines before leaving for further studies or settle abroad.

A DOH technical working group was considering the possibility of setting the requirement at one or two years, as proposed by sectors like medical societies, the official said.

"It is important to draft a bill and have it certified urgent (by the President) to address the migration of doctors," he said.

DUQUE: Sounds alarm

Speaking in the same conference, Dr. Minguita Padilla, PAO vice president, warned that merely putting a legal bind to keep medical professionals in the country might only discourage students from wanting to become doctors.

As it is, she said there had been a steady decline in the number of enrollees in medical schools while some institutions had even been forced to close down.

"We have to make it attractive for them to stay in the country," she argued.

Incentive system

Padilla, who is also president of the Eye Bank Foundation, suggested that the government come up with an attractive incentive system to convince health professionals that staying in the Philippines was not such a bad idea.

One way is to expand the government's health insurance system, especially in the provinces, she said. This way, doctors won't be perennially left to charity work for patients in the provinces.

Through Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth), a government company previously headed by Duque, medical expenses, including professional fees, are subsidized.

Tax breaks

Another option is to provide tax breaks for hospitals, especially those based in the provinces where people usually have no easy access to health services, Padilla suggested.

"Our doctors need to earn a living as well," she said.

Sense of patriotism

Duque said he was open to the proposal, adding that Malacañang would have to play a big role in keeping doctors in the country through incentives.

But in the end, he said the critical problem of migration in the medical profession would need a certain degree of sacrifice from doctors and nurses themselves.

"We cannot stop people from seeking financial growth elsewhere but there should be a balance between individual human right and national interest," he said.

"So we appeal to our doctors' sense of patriotism."

IN THE KNOW

By PDI Research

IN AN informal survey conducted last year by the Philippine Medical Association it found that of its **15,854** members, 6 percent or **1,003** doctors were enrolled in nursing.

Of their **700** members who have finished the course, **347** are now abroad. They are a part of at least **1,500** Filipino doctors who left the country last year.

One major reason for leaving is the lucrative pay nurses abroad get—$3,000 to $4,000—compared to the usual fees nurses and doctors here get, $150 to $250 and $300 to $800, respectively.

In the United States alone, demand for nurses was estimated to reach **600,000** until 2010.

Already, the Philippines has close to **250** nursing schools from only **17** in the 1950s and **186** in 1999. Enrollees have jumped **255** percent from almost **26,000** in schoolyear 1999-2000 to over 92,000 in SY 2002-2003.

Miracle in the rain: All 309 passengers survive crash

From page A1

recounted.

"It happened so quickly; it was a little bit like being in a movie," said Gwen Dunlop of Toronto, who was returning from a vacation in France.

Dunlop said some passengers went down emergency chutes, while others just jumped out on their own.

"We were all trying to go up a hill; it was all mud and we lost our shoes. We were just scrambling, people with children."

Pouring rain, lightning and thunder added to the drama.

The federal agency Environment Canada had issued a severe weather alert earlier in the day, saying its radar showed a rapidly developing thunderstorm with winds of about 96 kph. Shaw said the airport had been on "red alert" since noon, which indicates potential for lightning but does not prevent planes from landing or taking off.

Moments after the crash, a portion of the plane's wing could be seen jutting from trees as smoke and flames poured from the middle of its broken fuselage. A row of emergency vehicles lined up behind the wreck, and a fire truck sprayed the flames with water.

Some of the 297 passengers and 12 crew members who evacuated reached the nearby highway crowded with rush hour travelers.

"We located the co-pilot on Highway 401," said police Sgt. Glyn Griffiths.

Lauren Langille, 15, was flying back from France with an exchange student who was coming to live with her Toronto family.

"There was a lot of panic, but the flight attendants were really good at calming you down," said Langille, who was greeted by her father carrying helium balloons.

Emergency mishandled

But Dunlop said the staff did not handle the emergency well.

"One of the hostesses said, 'You can calm down, it's OK,' and yet the plane was on fire and smoke was pouring in," Dunlop told the AP. "I don't like to criticize, but the staff did not seem helpful or prepared."

Dazed survivors who made their way to Highway 401, a multi-lane road that adjoins Pearson International Airport, flagged down commuters who had slowed down as flames and thick black smoke billowed from the wrecked plane.

Rayed Hantach said his brother Mohammed had phoned from the side of the road to tell him he was safe, after a woman stopped to help and offered her cell phone.

"When it finally stopped, some of the guys jumped off the plane. My brother was one of them and he made his way to the 401," Rayed Hantach said, as he waited at the airport.

"Some Good Samaritan drivers pulled over. A lady saw him, pulled over and he used her cell phone to call me. I'm relieved that he's safe and on the ground, thank God."

Commuter Debbi Wilkes was driving through the storm when she saw a bolt of lighting.

"We did not know it was a plane at that time. There were streaks of fire on top of the runway and down in the field," she said.

Several hours after the crash, passengers in red blankets were hustled away from the throngs of TV cameras and journalists. The passengers were taken on buses to the nearby Sheraton Hotel to meet relatives and friends. Some were distressed that they had to go through customs before they were reunited.

Good safety record

The accident was the first crash landing of an Airbus A340 in its 13 years of commercial service.

Chris Yates, an aviation specialist with Jane's Transport magazine, said the A340 had a very good safety record and weather appeared to be the cause of the accident.

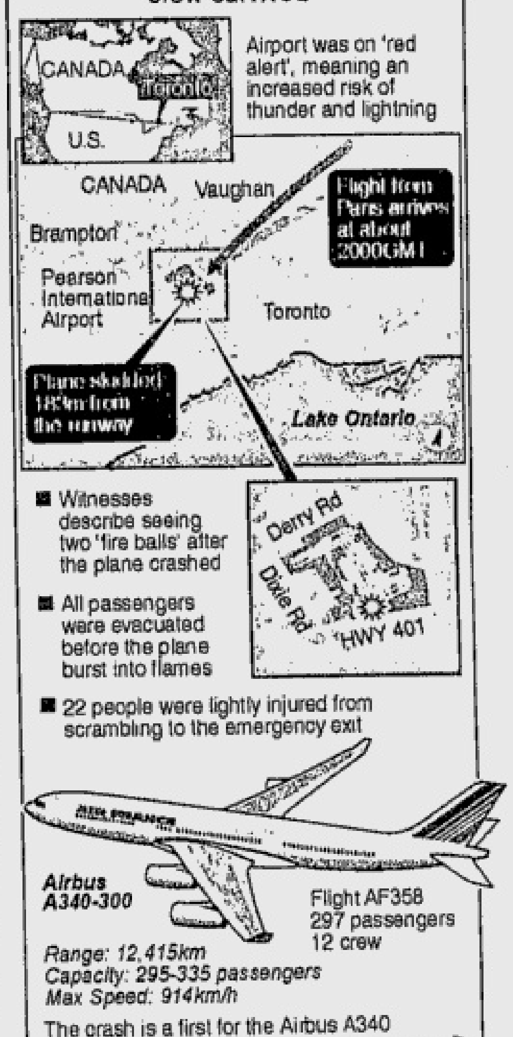
"You can never account for weather," Yates said. "A thunderstorm can happen anywhere—it comes down to the judgment of the air traffic controller and the skill of the pilot to determine whether it's appropriate to land or to divert elsewhere."

The most serious plane crash at Pearson, Canada's busiest airport, was more than 30 years ago. In 1970 an Air Canada DC-8 jet, en route from Montreal to Los Angeles, went down north of the airport, killing all 109 people aboard.

Reports from AP and Reuters

TORONTO CRASH

An Air France Airbus burst into flames when it overshot the runway and crashed into a gully at Toronto's Pearson International Airport in a lightning storm on Tuesday. All 309 passengers and crew survived


CANADA
Toronto
U.S.
Airport was on 'red alert', meaning an increased risk of thunder and lightning
CANADA
Vaughan
Flight from Paris arrives at about 2000GMT
Brampton
Pearson International Airport
Toronto
Plane skidded 183m from the runway
Lake Ontario
Derry Rd
Dixie Rd
HWY 401
AIR FRANCE
Airbus A340-300
Flight AF358
297 passengers
12 crew

- Witnesses describe seeing two 'fire balls' after the plane crashed
- All passengers were evacuated before the plane burst into flames
- 22 people were lightly injured from scrambling to the emergency exit

Range: 12,415km
Capacity: 295-335 passengers
Max Speed: 914km/h

The crash is a first for the Airbus A340

REUTERS

IMG
INTERNATIONAL MARKETING GROUP

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

ATTENTION : ALL PHILAM PLANS INC. PLANHOLDERS UNDERWRITTEN BY IMG

THIS IS TO CLARIFY THAT THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) WHEREBY PHILAM PLANS, INC. (PPI) APPOINTED INTERNATIONAL MARKETING GROUP INSURANCE BROKERS CORPORATION (IMG) AS BROKER FOR THE SALE OF PRE-NEED PLANS **WAS TERMINATED BY IMG EFFECTIVE 28 FEBRUARY 2005 THROUGH IMG'S TERMINATION LETTER DATED 29 DECEMBER 2004.**

ALL PRE-NEED PLANS OF PPI UNDERWRITTEN BY IMG AS AUTHORIZED BROKER OF PPI BEFORE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF SAID TERMINATION REMAIN LEGALLY VALID, EFFECTIVE AND ENFORCEABLE, CONTRARY TO THE APPREHENSION OF MANY PLANHOLDERS. SUCH APPREHENSIONS, WHICH WERE CAUSED BY MISLEADING ANNOUNCEMENTS BY QUARTERS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH IMG, ARE TOTALLY BASELESS.

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PLEASE CONTACT IMG AT (632) 812-2551 LOC 107, 0917-856-8080 OR EMAIL US AT info@img-corp.com OR ANY OF ITS AGENTS FOR FURTHER INQUIRIES AND ADVISE.

AUGUST 3, 2005, MAKATI CITY.

INTERNATIONAL MARKETING GROUP (IMG)
INSURANCE BROKERS CORPORATION

ADVT.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, August 4, 2005
18th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	Num 20:1-13
Gospel:	Matthew 16:13-23

Jesus came to Caesarea Philippi. He asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of man is?" They said, "For some of them you are John the Baptist, for others Elijah or Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

Jesus asked them, "But you, who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "It is well for you, Simon Barjona, for it is not flesh or blood that has revealed this to you but my Father in heaven.

"And now I say to you: You are Peter (or Rock) and on this rock I will build my Church; and never will the powers of death overcome it.

"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and what you unbind on earth shall be unbound in heaven."

Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

From that day Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem; he would suffer many things from the Jewish authorities, the chief priests and the teachers of the Law. He would be killed and be raised on the third day.

Then Peter took him aside and began to reproach him, "Never, Lord! No, this must never happen to you." But Jesus turned to him and said, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path. You are thinking not as God does, but as people do."

Commentary

The question comes again—and again! Who do people say I am-and who do you think I am? And they all think that he is a prophet! A prophet is dedicated to the true worship of God, care for the poor, work for justice and no violence allowed among the people. And Peter answers theologically—unlike him. He answers for the community of Matthew (the gospel written after the destruction of the temple, with Christians struggling outside of the Jewish community for an identity of their own, since they have been rejected and exiled from their tradition and society for refusing to defend the temple against the Romans). Peter and the church of Matthew are told that nothing will prevail against them: not the Romans and the Jews who are persecuting them, not their own infighting and not even the gates of death. The church will survive and forgiveness and justice will be loosed in the world. We are given courage to stand and endure faithfully.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

Xavier U homecoming

ATTENTION all graduates of Xavier University (Ateneo de Cagayan). You are invited to a grand homecoming on Aug. 19 and 20, 2005 in Cagayan de Oro City.

The Xavier University-Ateneo Alumni Association (XUAAA) has lined up several fun-filled activities to make this year's reunion more memorable, said XUAAA president Raul L. Noble.

"We want to make this a family affair," said Noble, vice president and resident manager of Philippine Sinter Corp. He said this year's theme is "Ibalik ang Pinagsamahan (Bring back the good times)."

The festivities will start with a bang on Aug. 19, 2005 with a Barbeque Night complete with live bands playing retro songs at the Magsaysay Park fronting the Xavier University campus.

Noble said proceeds will go to a scholarship fund.

Sta. Isabel College concert

THE STA. Isabel College Music Department will celebrate its diamond jubilee with a multi-piano concert on Saturday, Aug. 6, at the Philamlife Auditorium in Manila.

The Sta. Isabel College of Music Alumni Association (SICMAA) said the concert, with the theme "Spirit of Thanksgiving," is free to the public. The featured artists are Hugo and Hanna Hua, Regina Montesclaros, Karl Echaluse, John Patrick Reyes, Venecia Teresita Tamayo, Jane Namit-Mahipus, Bernica Sioson-Tuason and concert pianist and pedagogue Cecile Basilio-Roxas. For details, text 09164822420 or call tel. no. 2537662.

Mapua High '85 reunion

CALLING all graduates of Mapua Institute of Technology High School batch 1985. Your classmates are planning a grand reunion on Dec. 29, 2005. There is no venue yet and your inputs are needed. For information, please call Melanie Perez at tel. no. 0917 8013079; Joel Aliga, 0917 8258920; or send Email to reunioninfo@miths85.com. You can also check out www.miths85.com for more details.

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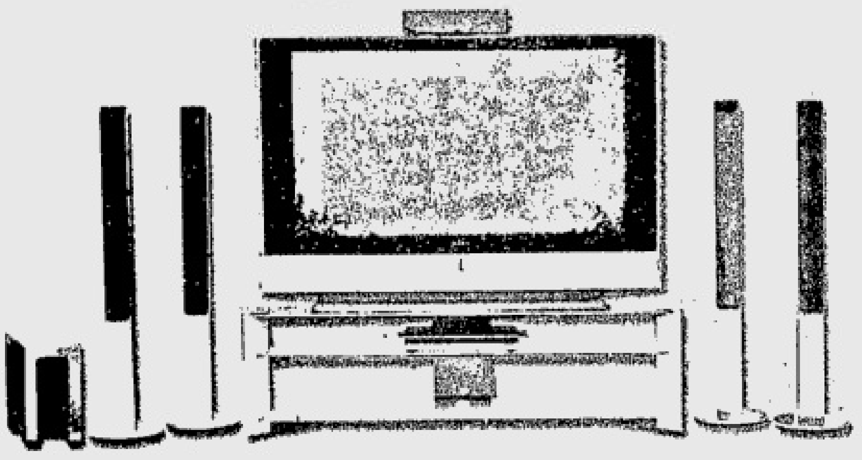

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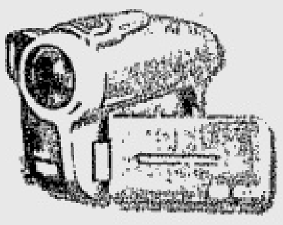
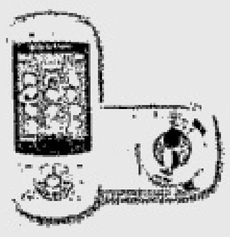
DCR-DVD803

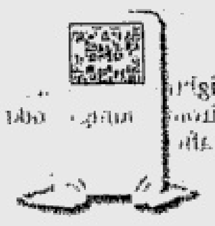


⑮ **SONY ERICSSON**
S700i



㉚ **SONY**
Cybershot DSC-T7

㊿ **APPLE**
iPod Photo 30GB



THE 2005 *PHILIP MORRIS 100's* "WIN A COOL CAT" PROMO OFFICIAL RULES

- Promotion period is from August 1 to September 25, 2005.

- Only adult smokers 18 years old and above (as of August 1, 2005), who are Philippine residents, and living in Luzon (excluding Bicol) and Visayas can enter the *PHILIP MORRIS 100's* "WIN A COOL CAT" promotion.

- To enter the draw, write down your name, address, age (as of August 1, 2005) and signature at the back of an empty pack of any Philip Morris variant (*Philip Morris 100's* Soft Pack or *Philip Morris 100's* Flip-Top Box).

- Only genuine and original *Philip Morris 100's* packs manufactured by Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc. (Philip Morris) purchased in the Philippines, and bearing the Philippine Government health warning and pack seal with complete information requested in item 3, will be accepted as valid raffle entries.

- No photocopies or counterfeits of *Philip Morris 100's* packs will be allowed. Once submitted, all *Philip Morris 100's* packs will become the property of Philip Morris, including the right to edit, publish, and use the information therein without any consideration or payment to the applicant. Sign-up Forms will not be acknowledged or returned.

- Drop your entries in drop boxes at authorized retail outlets/drop centers or mail to:

PHILIP MORRIS 100's "WIN A COOL CAT" PROMO
c/o Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc.
MCC P.O. Box 2338
1299 Makati City

- All entries must be received by Philip Morris not later than September 25, 2005. Philip Morris and its agents will have no responsibility for lost, illegible, incomplete, misdirected, mutilated, postage due, or late entries.

- The draw will be held on October 15, 2005 in the presence of a DOH-BFAD representative. The following prizes will be drawn:

Quantity	Description of Prize
1	2005 Jaguar X-Type 2.0 V6 Classic
3	Sony Wega 50" TV (KF-WE50A1) w/ Home Theater Set (DAV-SR4W)
10	Sony Digital Camcorder DCR-DVD803
15	Sony Ericsson S700i mobile phones
30	Sony Cybershot DSC-T7 digital cameras
50	Apple iPod Photo 30GB

- The names of the winners will be published in one of the leading newspapers not later than October 31, 2005. Winners will be notified via telegram as to when and where they can claim their prizes. By participating, the winners agree to the inclusion of their names and/or pictures in the Winners Ad.

- Prizes will only be awarded to the person whose name appears on the winning entry. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from publication of the winners, or notification of winners, whichever comes later, will be forfeited with the written approval of the DOH-BFAD.

- In claiming a prize, the winner must present the original notification telegram from Philip Morris and two (2) original and valid identification documents [Driver's license, Passport, Birth Certificate] and his Tax Identification Number (TIN). The IDs presented (singly or collectively) should show the following information below. If the IDs submitted do not contain these three (3) information, it will not be accepted as valid proof of identification:

Full Name
Date of Birth or Age
Signature

- In case the winner is unable to present two (2) original and valid ID's acceptable to Philip Morris, he must submit sworn affidavits, executed by two (2) disinterested persons attesting to his identity; and a certification from the responsible municipality/city official certifying that he is a resident of the said municipality/city.

- In cases wherein the winner cannot personally claim his prize for any reason, he can send a proxy on his behalf. The proxy should be able to present the following:
  - A letter of authorization duly signed by the winner, nominating the proxy as the acknowledged recipient of the prize on the winner's behalf
  - Two (2) original and valid ID's of the winner (singly or collectively showing the required information as mentioned in item 11)
  - Two (2) original and valid ID's of the proxy.
  - Original copy of the notification telegram from Philip Morris.

- An entrant can only win once. If a name is drawn more than once, the winner will receive the prize of a higher value and a winner for the other prize will be re-drawn.

- Prizes are not transferable or convertible to cash.

- Prizes will be supplied with standard dealers' warranties only, where available. Philip Morris and its agents will not be liable with respect to: (i) any death or injury or consequential loss or damage arising from the use of any prize; (ii) any dealer's refusal to honor any warranty.

- Prizes are subject to availability and supplier's restrictions. Philip Morris may, without notice, withdraw or substitute any prize with comparable value and nature.

- Philip Morris will only shoulder final withholding taxes on prize amounting to more than PhP 10,000. Except as expressly provided herein, Philip Morris will not be liable to the winners for any taxes, costs, liabilities or expenses that may arise out of ownership or use of the prizes.

- All decisions of Philip Morris and its agents are final and no objections will be entertained.

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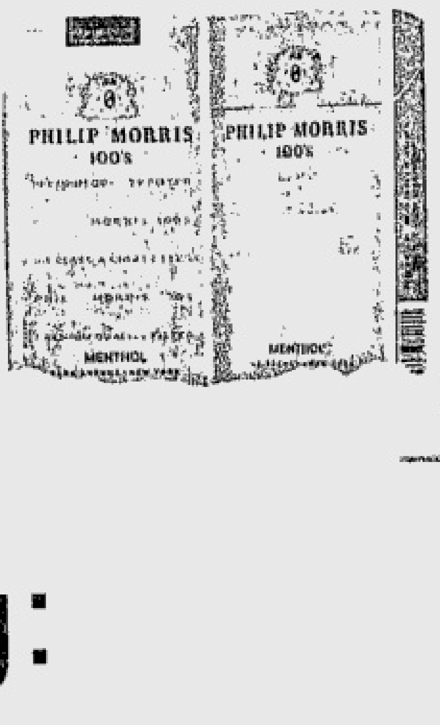
- These terms and conditions are subject to any relevant law, government direction and regulation. The promotion will be void where prohibited or restricted by law. Venue of any action arising under this promotion shall be brought solely in the proper courts of Makati City, all other available venues of suit being waived.



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Sipa Elementary School
Marcela, Apayao
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Rapu-Rapu East District
Rapu-Rapu, Albay
18 boxes of textbooks

Mula Agosto hanggang Oktubre, ihahatid ng Department of Education, sa tulong ng Boy Scouts at Girl Scouts of the Philippines, mga mamamayan ng iba't ibang barangay, KAAKBAY CDI at pati na rin ng mga pribadong kumpanya tulad ng Coca-Cola Bottlers, ang 1.3 milyong textbook sa higit na 42,000 na paaralang pampubliko. Mula 2001, halos 100 milyong textbook na ang naihatid sa mga mag-aaral sa buong Pilipinas.

Tumulong! Magbantay sa paghahatid ng mga textbook sa ating mga mag-aaral. Para mag-boluntaryo sa Textbook Count 3, tumawag sa mga sumusunod na numero: Government Watch sa 899-4588 o sa Instructional Materials Council Secretariat, DepEd sa 634-1072. Puwede ring gumamit ng DETxt Hotline: 2622 (SMART) at G-Watch Text: 0928-3347631.

DepED
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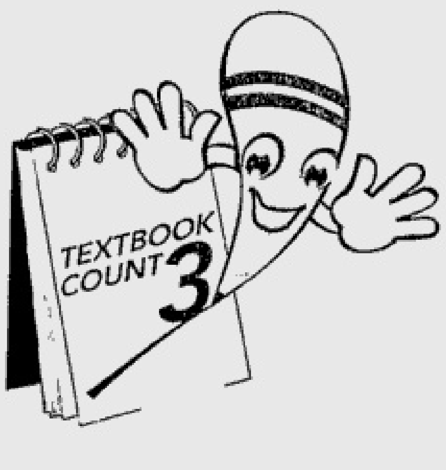
TEXTBOOK
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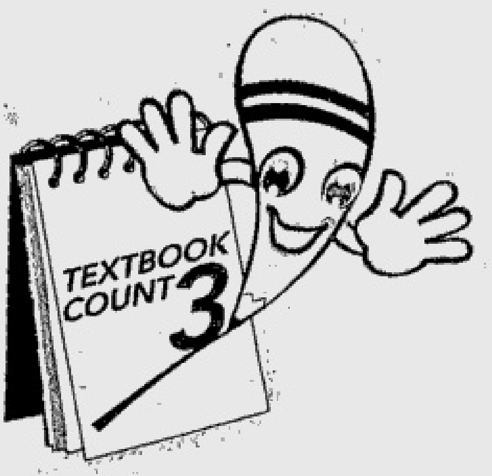

Schedule and allocation of High School IV Math textbooks per region

Region/Division	Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry and Statistics	Delivery Schedule
I TOTAL	**67,001**	
Alaminos City	1,367	August 15 - 17, 2005
Dagupan City	1,779	August 17 - 19, 2005
Candon City	760	August 18 - 22, 2005
Laoag City	1,616	August 18 - 22, 2005
San Carlos City	2,354	August 19 - 25, 2005
Urdaneta City	2,300	August 22 - 26, 2005
Ilocos Norte	5,856	August 23 - September 5, 2005
Ilocos Sur	6,951	August 23 - September 5, 2005
La Union	9,708	August 26 - September 8, 2005
Pangasinan I	18,673	August 26 - September 8, 2005
Pangasinan II	15,637	August 29 - September 9, 2005
II TOTAL	**43,891**	
Tuguegarao City	2,319	August 15 - 17, 2005
Cagayan	12,985	August 16 - 29, 2005
Isabela	21,509	August 22 - September 2, 2005
Nueva Vizcaya	4,779	August 25 - September 7, 2005
Quirino	2,299	August 29 - September 9, 2005
III TOTAL	**98,192**	
Balanga City	1,314	August 15 - 17, 2005
Muñoz Science City	1,138	August 16 - 18, 2005
Angeles City	3,131	August 17 - 19, 2005
San Fernando City	1,658	August 18 - 22, 2005
San Jose Del Monte City	2,782	August 18 - 22, 2005
Bataan	7,135	August 18 - 31, 2005
Olongapo City	3,031	August 22 - 26, 2005
Bulacan	21,205	August 22 - September 2, 2005
Pampanga	17,100	August 23 - September 5, 2005
Nueva Ecija	18,017	August 24 - September 6, 2005
Zambales	5,222	August 25 - September 7, 2005
Tarlac	11,850	August 29 - September 9, 2005
Tarlac City	1,762	September 7 - 9, 2005
Cabanatuan City	1,293	September 7 - 9, 2005
Gapan City	1,554	September 7 - 9, 2005
CAR TOTAL	**4,958**	
Baguio City	4,958	August 15-19, 2005
IV-A TOTAL	**125,048**	
Batangas City	3,542	September 26 - 28, 2005
Lucena City	667	September 27 - 29, 2005
San Pablo City	2,678	September 28 - October 4, 2005
Batangas	15,901	September 29 - October 12, 2005
Cavite	27,005	September 29 - October 12, 2005
Laguna	22,569	September 30 - October 13, 2005
Quezon	21,074	October 3 - 14, 2005
Rizal	16,719	October 6 - 19, 2005
Antipolo City	5,096	October 12 - 18, 2005
Tanauan City	1,798	October 14 - 18, 2005
Calamba City	3,121	October 14 - 20, 2005
Lipa City	3,253	October 17 - 21, 2005
Cavite City	1,625	October 18 - 20, 2005
IV-B TOTAL	**31,436**	
Puerto Princesa City	3,205	September 26 - October 4, 2005
Marinduque	4,155	September 29 - October 12, 2005
Calapan City	2,295	October 3 - 5, 2005
Mindoro Occidental	5,737	October 3 - 14, 2005
Palawan	7,764	October 3 - 14, 2005
Mindoro Oriental	8,280	October 6 - 19, 2005
V TOTAL	**69,184**	
Iriga City	1,552	September 26 - 28, 2005
Ligao City	1,787	September 28 - October 4, 2005
Naga City	2,563	September 29 - October 5, 2005
Sorsogon City	2,705	October 3 - 7, 2005
Albay	11,696	October 10 - 21, 2005
Camarines Norte	6,707	October 4 - 17, 2005
Camarines Sur	18,416	October 4 - 17, 2005
Catanduanes	4,295	October 5 - 18, 2005
Sorsogon	9,312	October 10 - 21, 2005
Tabaco City	8,158	October 17 - 19, 2005
Legaspi City	1,993	October 19 - 21, 2005
NCR TOTAL	**138,611**	
Muntinlupa City	4,465	September 26 - 28, 2005
Makati City	13,538	September 27 - October 3, 2005
Marikina City	4,718	September 28 - October 4, 2005
Pasay City	4,428	September 29 - October 5, 2005
Taguig-Pateros	6,879	September 30 - October 6, 2005
Caloocan City	18,590	October 3 - 11, 2005
Las Piñas City	5,546	October 5 - 7, 2005
Mandaluyong City	3,116	October 5 - 7, 2005
Quezon City	29,377	October 5 - 13, 2005
Parañaque City	5,562	October 6 - 12, 2005
Pasig City-San Juan	8,953	October 10 - 14, 2005
Manila	21,193	October 10 - 21, 2005
Valenzuela City	5,369	October 11 - 17, 2005
Malabon-Navotas	6,877	October 17 - 21, 2005
VI TOTAL	**81,831**	
Roxas City	999	Septermber 12 -14, 2005
San Carlos City	951	September 13 - 15, 2005
Bacolod City	6,356	September 15 - 21, 2005
Cadiz City	1,946	September 16 - 22, 2005
Sagay City	1,509	September 19 - 23, 2005
Silay City	1,861	September 20 - 26, 2005
Aklan	7,732	September 21 - October 4, 2005
Iloilo	28,822	September 26 - October 7, 2005
Bago City	2,504	September 26 - 30, 2005
Kabankalan City	2,251	September 26 - 30, 2005
Negros Occidental	19,081	September 26 - October 7, 2005
La Carlota City	1,479	September 29 - 30, 2005
Iloilo City	5,087	October 3 - 7, 2005
Passi City	1,253	October 5 - 7, 2005
VII TOTAL	**63,496**	
Dumaguete City	938	September 12 - 14, 2005
Tagbilaran City	1,182	September 14 - 16, 2005
Siquijor	1,181	September 19 - 23, 2005
Bohol	13,551	September 19 - 30, 2005
Lapu-Lapu City	4,094	September 21 - 29, 2005
Cebu	25,298	September 26 - October 7, 2005
Cebu City	9,701	September 26 - October 7, 2005
Danao City	1,129	September 30 - October 4, 2005
Mandaue City	3,037	October 3 - 5, 2005
Talisay City	1,430	October 4 - 6, 2005
Toledo City	1,955	October 5 - 7, 2005
VIII TOTAL	**18,958**	
Calbayog City	1,384	September 12 - 14, 2005
Tacloban City	2,958	September 13 - 15, 2005
Western Samar	6,105	September 21 - October 4, 2005
Northern Samar	6,294	September 26-October 7, 2005
Ormoc City	2,217	October 3 - 5, 2005
IX TOTAL	**23,089**	
Zamboanga City	8,578	August 29 - September 9, 2005
Zamboanga Del Norte	7,725	September 5 -16, 2005
Dapitan City	918	September 21 - 27, 2005
Dipolog City	1,724	September 26 - October 3, 2005
Isabela City	1,445	September 27 - October 4, 2005
Pagadian City	2,699	September 30 - October 7, 2005
X TOTAL	**41,867**	
Gingoog City	1,249	August 29 - September 2, 2005
Malaybalay City	1,855	August 31 - September 6, 2005
Oroquieta City	1,180	September 2 - 8, 2005
Ozamis City	1,956	September 5 - 9, 2005
Valencia City	1,134	September 5 - 7, 2005
Tangub City	945	September 7 - 13, 2005
Bukidnon	6,684	September 8 - 21, 2005
Camiguin	1,123	September 12 - 20, 2005
Cagayan De Oro City	5,785	September 13 - 21, 2005
Misamis Occidental	2,642	September 14 - 27, 2005
Iligan City	4,683	September 15 - 28, 2005
Misamis Oriental	8,840	September 19 - October 3, 2005
Lanao Del Norte	3,791	September 26 - October 7, 2005
XI TOTAL	**48,994**	
Digos City	2,650	August 29 - 31, 2005
Tagum City	2,970	August 31 - September 2, 2005
Davao Del Sur	5,855	September 1 - 14, 2005
Island Garden City of Samal	1,052	September 5 - 9, 2005
Davao City	15,956	September 5 - 16, 2005
Davao Del Norte	4,854	September 12 - 23, 2005
Panabo City	2,021	September 14 - 16, 2005
Compostela Valley	8,007	September 19 - 30, 2005
Davao Oriental	5,629	September 23 - October 7, 2005
XII TOTAL	**31,276**	
Cotabato City	3,145	August 29 - September 2, 2005
Tacurong City	1,394	September 5 - 9, 2005
General Santos City	6,508	September 8 - 16, 2005
Koronadal City	2,235	September 12 - 16, 2005
Sarangani	4,078	September 14 -22, 2005
South Cotabato	7,960	September 21 - October 4, 2005
Sultan Kudarat	5,956	September 26 - October 7, 2005
XIII TOTAL	**14,614**	
Surigao City	1,062	August 31 - September 2, 2005
Butuan City	3,992	September 5 - 9, 2005
Agusan Del Norte	2,950	September 5 - 16, 2005
Surigao Del Norte	5,192	September 12 - 23, 2005
Siargao	1,418	September 23 - October 7, 2005

Schedule and allocation of Grade 3 Math textbooks per region

Region	Division	Mathematics for Everyday Life	Elementary Math Lesson Guides	Delivery Schedule to District
II	TOTAL	490	109	
	Batanes	490	109	August 16 - 29, 2005
III	TOTAL	5,110	683	
	Aurora	5,110	683	August 19 - September 1, 2005
CAR	TOTAL	33,775	6,351	
	Abra	5,566	1,201	August 18 - 31, 2005
	Apayao	3,115	614	August 29 - September 9, 2005
	Benguet	9,310	1,641	August 18 - 31, 2005
	Ifugao	5,495	980	August 23 - September 5, 2005
	Kalinga	5,880	1,042	August 29 - September 9, 2005
	Mt. Province	4,410	873	August 23 - September 5, 2005
IV-B	TOTAL	8,855	1,171	
	Romblon	8,855	1,171	October 10 - 21, 2005
V	TOTAL	27,335	3,246	
	Masbate	24,640	3,053	September 29 - October 12, 2005
	Masbate City	2,695	193	September 28 - 30, 2005
VI	TOTAL	34,895	5,044	
	Antique	14,035	2,383	September 22 - October 5, 2005
	Capiz	16,905	2,148	September 15 - 28, 2005
	Guimaras	3,955	513	September 14 - 16, 2005
VII	TOTAL	34,125	3,399	
	Negros Oriental	26,005	2,721	September 14 - 27, 2005
	Bais City	2,310	208	September 26 - 28, 2005
	Bayawan City	3,710	268	September 28 - 30, 2005
	Tanjay City	2,100	202	September 29 - October 3, 2005
VIII	TOTAL	69,125	9,952	
	Biliran	4,830	701	September 28 - October 4, 2005
	Leyte	40,390	5,457	September 19 - 30, 2005
	Maasin City	1,785	297	October 5 - 7, 2005
	Eastern Samar	13,790	2,150	September 15 - 28, 2008
	Southern Leyte	8,330	1,347	September 23 - October 6, 2005
IX	TOTAL	40,635	5,348	
	Zamboanga del Sur	23,450	3,234	September 12 - 23, 2005
	Zamboanga Sibugay	17,185	2,114	September 15 - 28, 2005
XII	TOTAL	30,765	3076	
	Kidapawan City	2,695	275	August 31 - September 2, 2005
	North Cotabato	28,070	2,801	September 19 - 30, 2005
XIII	TOTAL	34,860	4,423	
	Agusan del Sur	18,130	2,230	September 19 - 30, 2005
	Bislig City	2,800	258	August 29 - 31, 2005
	Surigao del Sur	13,930	1,935	September 1 - 14, 2005

To volunteer as a textbook delivery watcher in your school, call the following numbers: Government Watch at 899-4588 • Instructional Materials Council Secretariat, DepED at 634-1072. Or use the DETxt Hotline: 2622 (SMART) and G-Watch Text: 0928-3347631.

Opposition solons want Smart, Globe to produce GMA, Garci phone bills

By Michael Lim Ubac

PRO-IMPEACHMENT lawmakers yesterday asked Congress to subpoena billing statements of the cellular phones used by President Macapagal-Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

The minority's impeachment case spokesperson, Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, said the billing records containing calls during the 2004 election period should be submitted by Smart Communications and Globe Telecoms to the joint committee.

Cayetano made the manifestation at the resumption of the congressional inquiry into the "Hello Garci" audio tapes supposedly containing conversations between Ms Arroyo and Garcillano on rigging election results.

Administration lawmakers objected to the motion.

The privacy of correspondence was "inviolable," said Reps. Salacnib Baterina, Edcel Lagman and Amelita Villarosa, quoting Article 3, Section 3, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, as they opposed the issuance of a subpoena duces tecum.

Baterina said the Bill of Rights "tries to protect the individuals against the power of government to look into his privacy of communication and correspondence."

Cayetano shot back: "This is not a witchhunt. This goes directly into the issue. I'm not asking for a circus here. I'm asking that these records be provided to us, be submitted to the chairmen. The chairmen will take a quick look at it and we will see whether there's a next step."

Rep. Gilbert Remulla, chair of the lead investigating committee, ruled that the matter should be first referred to a legal expert for opinion.

Arrest order out for Garcillano

From page A1

"With this warrant, we're hoping that there will be a real search for Commissioner Garcillano. His contemptuous behavior and lack of respect for Congress has made the House agree to seek his arrest."

Remulla said the joint committee would have to convene again once Garcillano was located.

Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin, chair of the House committee on suffrage, said that the warrant was imperative because "Garcillano has openly mocked us. His behavior is contemptuous."

"[We have to] vindicate the honor of this chamber ... so we punish him for contempt," said Locsin.

1st in House history

Remulla, who steered the course of the inquiry's 10 sometimes rowdy hearings, said the issuance of the warrant was "unprecedented" because it was a first in the history of the chamber."

"It's the first time, a test case," said Remulla who personally brought the warrant to Speaker Jose de Venecia for his signature.

The lawmakers had wanted to ask Garcillano about his supposed bugged telephone talk with Ms Arroyo allegedly involving a conspiracy to tamper with the results of the May 2004 presidential election.

Ms Arroyo has apologized for talking to an election official whom she did not identify but denied any wrongdoing. Garcillano has denied it was his voice on the tape and also denied committing any crime.

Lagman moved to adopt in plenary an earlier ruling of the five House committees conducting the probe, to declare Garcillano in contempt for adamantly refusing to appear before the inquiry despite two subpoenas issued against him.

This prompted Davao del Sur Rep. Douglas Cagas to object, saying that because the impeachment proceeding against Ms Arroyo was now under way in the House committee on justice, the arrest "can become moot and academic."

Remulla explained that the committees first held Garcillano in contempt yesterday morning. Then other members moved to arrest him.

But under House rules, the Speaker would have to sign the warrant to effect the arrest, which he already did, said the young Cavite lawmaker.

House sergeant-at-arms Bayani Favic will coordinate today with law enforcement agencies to serve the warrant, while the Philippine National Police is expected to coordinate with Interpol should Garcillano leave the country via the backdoor.

Arrest 'on sight'

Rep. Prospero Pichay said Garcillano should be "arrested on sight."

"I also appeal to him to come out. Otherwise, his continued absence and perhaps flight, will be taken as an admission of guilt," said Pichay who branded as an "irresponsible grandstanding" the opposition's effort to put the responsibility of producing Garcillano on him and an INQUIRER reporter.

Garcillano last month phoned Pichay and the INQUIRER reporter to deny charges that he helped fix the elections.

He later sent a signed affidavit which showed that he had also talked with several other politicians from both sides of the political divide.

Most sought after

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said it would be best for Garcillano to surface but stressed that Malacañang would not initiate the search for him or pour its resources into looking for the most sought after man in the Philippines today.

"It would be better if he comes out so that the truth will come out. The truth is the important thing so that all who have been tarnished would have their names cleansed," said Ermita.

Questions that need answers

"Let's see how his statements would relate to what has been stated before like his conversation allegedly with the President," Ermita said.

"Did he talk only with the President or has he spoken with anybody else among the politicians? And what were the circumstance why he talked to the candidates whoever they are? These are the things that have to come out." Ermita said that just like everybody else looking for Garcillano since June 6, he did not know where the election official was hiding.

But Ermita said the move to find Garcillano should not be initiated by the Palace but by Congress.

"They (Congress) have their own procedures, they have sent out a subpoena already. We have to go by the official action of the lower house," he said.

Ermita said the government could not go and look for Garcillano on its own volition.

No charges

"Garcillano is a private citizen, he hasn't been charged with anything and therefore the government as is has nothing to go by," he said.

The House declared Garcillano in contempt after its agents failed to locate him in his various residences—Gotesco Towers in Ermita, Manila; RER Subdivision in Cagayan de Oro City and Baungon town in Bukidnon province.

Ermita said law enforcers would only step in if the House issued a warrant of arrest.

"I suppose if the House asks the authorities to do that, especially law enforcement agencies, they have to help in locating him and serve the warrant," said Ermita.

When asked if the government would not exert extra effort and would just take the standard procedure in searching for a missing person, Ermita said: "Yes, you might say that."

Not a bully

"It's not for me to say if I will lift a finger or not or we will pour our resources in finding him as you put it," he said.

"All of us have our own thinking but we cannot impose our will on a fellow like Garcillano. Just because I'm here where I am, I cannot tell him, 'Hey Garci, come out!'," Ermita said.

Why Zuce came out swinging vs GMA

By Leila B. Salaverria

EBDANE

THE WAY Michaelangelo Zuce recounts it, he decided to come out publicly with his testimony against President Macapagal-Arroyo after he learned that Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., a former Police general, was looking for him.

"I am disturbed and fearful for my safety and that of my family since that time," said Zuce in an 11-page affidavit signed on Aug. 1. "If anything untoward should happen to me or my family, my testimony ... would be preserved and best served by this sworn statement."

Asked about his reaction to Zuce's statement, Ebdane said: "*Ano bang gusto nila gawin, anong gusto nilang palabasin? Ginagamit siya ng oposisyon, pinakamaganda siguro huwag na lang pansinin* (What do they want to do, what do they want to show? He's being used by the opposition, the best thing maybe is not to pay attention to it)," he told the INQUIRER.

Ebdane then turned around, strode to his vehicle and left the Department of Public Works and Highways compound in Manila.

The secretary's name first surfaced in connection with the worst political crisis of Ms Arroyo's administration when opposition ex-Sen. Francisco Tatad told reporters on June 20 that the retired General had escorted former election commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to Kota Kinabalu in the Malaysian state of Sabah. Tatad said this was "an obvious attempt to cover the crimes described in the now-famous Arroyo-Garcillano tape."

Garcillano's whereabouts remained unknown but a recent telephone interview with the INQUIRER indicated he was in the country. In the interview, Garcillano admitted his was the voice caught in a wire-tapped phone call with Ms Arroyo. The opposition said the recording was evidence Ms Arroyo cheated in last year's election. The President has denied manipulating the vote.

Palace claims 170 congressmen signed to crush impeach bid

From page A1

"We don't have a real or firm fix on the outcome of this exercise. We will probably know only upon the plenary voting on the justice committee rules based on the approved impeachment rules," he said.

Military intervention

A former national security adviser, however, warned Malacañang that the military might intervene if the administration used its overwhelming numbers in the House to junk the impeachment complaint.

Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez, former House defense committee chair, said the military was "keenly watching" how the administration's allies in the House would handle the complaint.

"Malacañang cannot be too sure about the military which I know is keenly watching. The President faces a serious moral issue and I know the military is sensitive to grave moral issues such as accusations that the election has been stolen," Golez said in a statement.

He said the political leadership should exert all efforts to keep the military in the barracks instead of being provoked into joining the political fray by a subverted impeachment process.

Ermita said part of the preparations of the executive department for the impeachment case, which is set to begin on Aug. 10 in the House, included "monitoring the developments in the House, especially the number of congressmen who might sign for the forwarding of the impeachment to the Senate."

"We're (also) looking at the list of congressmen who will stand by the President ... by not signing the impeachment complaint," he said.

Palace taps Nachura

The President has a team of lawyers preparing for her defense.

Ermita and Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said they had engaged the services of former Western Samar Rep. Antonio Eduardo Nachura to serve as resource person and spokesperson on questions about the case.

Bunye said Nachura would "assist us in explaining the impeachment process, and to speak for and in behalf of the administration."

Contacted by phone, Nachura said he would serve as a resource person on the impeachment process for Malacañang, with his experience in past impeachment cases filed in the House.

Now teaching law in San Beda College and Arellano University, Nachura was one of the prosecutors in the impeachment case against then President Joseph Estrada.

He was a member of the House when the impeachment cases filed against former Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, former Election Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco and Chief Justice Hilario Davide were deliberated in the House.

Asked to comment on Ermita's disclosure that 170 congressmen were committed to go against Ms Arroyo's impeachment, Nachura said the challenge then for the executive department was to "keep (them) intact in order that the impeachment complaint would not be supported (by the required number) of 79 congressmen."

"If the complaint fails to get 79 congressmen either at the level of the House committee on justice or at the plenary, then the impeachment will die in the House," Nachura said.

Security repercussions

Golez said a public perception that Malacañang and the majority in the House were subverting the impeachment process would have grave political and security repercussions.

"Eighty percent of Metro Manilans, roughly 8 million people, are in favor of the President's removal by resignation or impeachment. They are pinning their hopes on a just and fair impeachment process," he said.

Golez said surveys also showed that 7 percent of the country's population, roughly 700,000 in Metro Manila and close to 6 million all over the country, wanted the President removed by "whatever means."

"That is a very significant number in favor of the other means of removal, including extra-constitutional. Only the vast majority of the people, who continue to have faith in the constitutional process, are holding the seven percent in check," he said.

"If the faith in the constitutional process of those 80 percent in Metro Manila is eroded enough, the extra-constitutionalists might prevail and all hell could break loose," he added.

Phone campaign

For his part, Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said more lobby work was needed to persuade lawmakers from both the minority and the majority to sign the impeachment complaint.

"We call on people's organizations, nongovernment organizations and concerned citizens to come out, contact congresspersons and help us in securing at least 79 signatures to give way to Ms Arroyo's immediate trial at the Senate," Ocampo said.

He said anyone could call 9315001, the House trunk line, to be connected to his or her representative's office.

"Send them a clear message that you want Ms Arroyo impeached and that your representatives sign the impeachment complaint," Ocampo said.

Also yesterday, student leaders and members of a militant youth group trooped to the House.

Members of the Youth Demanding Arroyo's Removal (Youth Dare) tied white ribbons at the offices of pro-impeachment lawmakers.

They included student leaders from the University of the Philippines in Diliman and Manila, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, University of Sto. Tomas, Adamson University, Philippine Christian University, Trinity College and officers of the National Union of Students of the Philippines and the College Editors Guild of the Philippines.

"We believe Ms Arroyo committed impeachable offenses. As future leaders and responsible citizens of this nation, we only want the highest standards for public servants, especially for the President," said Raymond Palatino, Youth Dare spokesperson.

In an open letter to lawmakers, the UP Diliman Student Council also called for the President's immediate removal or resignation.

Manila Water

Emergency 12-hour water interruption in San Juan, Mandaluyong, Makati and Manila needed to repair leaking pipeline

The emergency repair of a major pipeline along F. Manalo and Kalentong will be undertaken and will cause a temporary water interruption beginning 7:00 p.m., Thursday, August 4, 2005 up to 7:00 a.m., August 5. We apologize for any inconvenience the activity will cause as the shutting off of the water supply is needed to repair the leak on the pipeline.

Affected areas are the following:

San Juan and Mandaluyong Area: Bgy. Kabayanan, Sta. Ana, New Zaniga, Namayan, Hulo, Hagdang Bato Itaas, Hagdang Bato Libis, Old Zaniga, Bagong Silang, Batis, Tibagan, Pag-asa, Poblacion, San Jose, Sta. Lucia, Daang Bakal, Addition Hills and Maytunas.

Makati: Bgy. San Antonio, La Paz, Carmona, Sta. Cruz. Tejeros, Singkamas and Kasilawan.

Manila: Whole of San Andres and Sta. Ana.

Manila Water Company advises all residents of the said areas to store enough water prior to the scheduled interruptions to avoid inconvenience.

For the latest update, please call our Customer Call Center Hotline at 1627.

Investing in pipelines for the future.

(PDI - August 4 2005)

Undecided are soul-searching

From page A1

we will have to decide," added the congresswoman, whose declared assets in her 2004 Statements of Assets and Liabilities amounted to P620.7 million. She had no liabilities.

"It's up to our individual conscience," she added.

Only 41 lawmakers have signed the complaint, including six from Villar's Nacionalista Party, which is allied with the administration. She said nine NP members, including herself, have yet to decide on the case.

The complaint accuses Ms Arroyo of cheating and bribing her way to victory in last year's elections, benefiting from gambling payoffs, hiding real estate in the United States and complicity in the murder of political activists.

For it to be transmitted to the Senate for trial, the complaint must get the support of 79 House members.

Lie low

While the complaint is under review at the House committee on justice, the people of Las Piñas would like their duly elected representative to "lie low and not hog the limelight as a rah-rah-rah girl" of the beleaguered President, she said.

"That's the least that I can do for them now," she said.

Wrong signals

To avoid sending wrong signals to her constituents and to her colleagues in the ruling coalition, Villar said she decided not to attend Ms Arroyo's State of the Nation Address on July 25.

"What for? If I clap, my constituents won't like it. If I don't, Malacañang would ask why I did not clap," she said.

Her dilemma also stems from what fate awaited lawmakers who voted for Jose de Venecia as Speaker but would opt to sign the impeachment case.

Villar said a lawmaker, who voted for the winning Speaker, was automatically deemed a member of the "majority."

But at the same time, a lawmaker, who signs the impeachment complaint, is seen as a member of the "minority" and stands to lose his or her position as chair of a committee.

"They are saying that this should not be the basis anymore," said Villar, who chairs the committee on higher and technical education.

LAGUNA DE BAY UNDER STRESS

Most lake firms not paying ecology fees

By Blanche S. Rivera

AROUND 6,000 companies in the Laguna Lake area are not paying their environmental user's fee, depriving the government of millions in revenues, the Laguna Lake Development Authority said.

The companies account for more than half of the 10,000 small, medium and large enterprises surrounding the lake, which has been classified by scientists as "extremely stressed" due to pollution.

Dolorita Z. Ravanilla, LLDA environment quality management division officer, said only around 4,000 firms have registered with the LLDA as of last year.

LLDA data showed that industries contribute 19 percent of pollutants in Laguna Lake, domestic waste 68.5 percent, agriculture 11.5 percent, 1.5 percent from forest and others.

LLDA jurisdiction covers the Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) area, the biggest industrial hub in the southern Tagalog region and one of the fastest growing economic zones in the country.

"We can control them (industries). They have become compliant. It's really the households that we cannot regulate, and they are the biggest polluters of the lake," Ravanilla said in an interview.

"Industries often throw back the argument to us, saying we're so strict with them but do not do anything with the bigger polluters, which are households," she said.

She said the LLDA had more support and cooperation from private stakeholders than from local government units.

The 4,000 registered companies already represent a substantial improvement in the registration as only around 1,000 companies complied with LLDA requirements when the user's fee was introduced in 1997, she said.

The LLDA charges a fixed fee of P5 per kilo of water discharged into the lake and another fee or penalty if the waste water contains more than the acceptable level of biochemical oxygen demand and total coliform count.

The acceptable BOD level for class C water is 50 mg/l and 5,000 mpn for total coliform count. The LLDA conducts water sampling every quarter to ensure the waste water discharge remains within the parameters approved by the permit.

"We do not revoke their permit when they fail, but we penalize them, and we have the option of not renewing their permit the following year," Ravanilla said.

From a meager P1,000 per day penalty for the violation, the LLDA has increased its charges to P5,000 per day of violation.

The 90,000-hectare Laguna Lake is the largest inland body of water in the Philippines and one of the largest lakes in Southeast Asia.

It covers a watershed area of 283,000 hectares encompassing 12 cities, 49 municipalities and 2,656 barangays, of which 187 are directly within lakeshore towns.

San Diego; 77

JULIANA Seraspi San Diego, mother of INQUIRER Entertainment reporter Bayani San Diego, died on July 28 after a lingering illness. She was 77.

Her remains lie at the St. Catherine Chapel of Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels in Sucat, Parañaque. Cremation is on Aug. 6 after the 11 a.m. Mass at the Holy Trinity Crematorium.

San Diego is also survived by children Sonia, Wilma, Gina, Ton Ton, niece Precy, grandchildren Shela, Nicole, Cove, Dave and Agnes.

IMPORTANT

To the Devotees of the SACRED HEART OF JESUS, Tomorrow, August 5 , 2005, will be the FIRST FRIDAY of the month. Novenas to the SACRED HEART OF JESUS and also to ST. ANTHONY are given away FREE at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City or from Beny at 170 Salcedo St. Legaspi Village, Makati City.

No special treatment for VIP lane passengers — Customs

By Nikko Dizon

THE BUREAU of Customs at the country's premier international airport would not give special treatment to passengers who avail themselves of the "Meet and Assist Service" (MAS) offered by the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa).

This was the reaction yesterday of a Customs official upon learning that the MAS includes the use of the courtesy lanes for a fast clearance at the customs, immigration and quarantine (CIQ).

"(Customs') fear is there might be a misconception among passengers who avail themselves of this service that they would be exempted from being inspected and taxed," the official, who requested anonymity, said.

The official added that there have been passengers who complained why their luggage were being inspected when they have already paid for Miaa's VIP assistance.

"They have to realize that even with VIP assistance, their bags will still be inspected and they will still be taxed accordingly," the official said.

Carmelita Talusan, customs collector for arrival passenger services, said that the BOC supports the airport authority's project, but expressed hope that passengers who avail themselves of assistance should also understand Customs rules and regulations.

Earlier, the Miaa stressed that "it is the responsibility of the requesting party to ensure that the passengers to be assisted have no derogatory record" with the immigration, customs, or any Philippine government agency.

The MAS offers escort services for passengers with the following rates on a per flight basis: P800 for individual passengers; P800 per head for groups with two to five passengers; and P500 per head for groups with more than five passengers

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Anwar wins apology for 1998 beating

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia's former police chief on Wednesday publicly apologized to ex-Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim for beating him in custody in 1998—leaving him with a black eye that defined in one image the charismatic leader's fall from grace in a power struggle with his mentor, Mahathir Mohamad.

Anwar, once a rising star on his way to prime ministership, will also receive unspecified financial compensation in the out-of-court settlement he reached with former Inspector General of Police Abdul Rahim Noor and his co-defendants, Mahathir, the then prime minister and home minister, and the government, lawyers for both sides told the court.

A statement read in court by Abdul Rahim's lawyer, Joseph Ting, said: "I Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Noor accept responsibility for the ... assault. The pain and hurt caused to you and to your family is deeply regretted. I sincerely apologize to you Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and your family for the same."

ANWAR

Tan Sri and Datuk Seri are honorifics bestowed by the government.

Anwar, 58, filed a civil suit against the three parties because of a beating he received from Abdul Rahim which resulted in several injuries including the infamous black eye, photos of which appeared on front pages around the world. Abdul Rahim was said to have punched and slapped a blindfolded Anwar as he sat handcuffed to a prison bed.

Anwar also said his back was injured in the assault, forcing him to undergo surgery last year.

Abdul Rahim was charged in May 1999 with assaulting Anwar on the night of his arrest, Sept. 20, 1998.

"I, my family, accept the apology," said Anwar, dressed in a dark suit, who sat impassively in court as the apology was read out.

"There is no point in going on with this episode. The pain, anguish and humiliation were huge but I agree that we have to move on," Anwar said, indicating he may also drop his demand for a public apology from Mahathir.

"It's not a personal vendetta," he told reporters before leaving to shouts of "Reformasi" by scores of supporters.

"Reformasi" had been the battle cry of his supporters when he led weeks of street demonstrations against Mahathir to demand democratic reforms and an end to cronyism after he was fired on Sept. 1, 1998.

Abdul Rahim was forced to resign over the beating—the first police chief to quit for committing impropriety—and was sentenced to 60 days in prison. He served just one-third of his term, which was reduced for good behavior. *AP*

Corruption at Iraqi defense ministry bared

BAGHDAD—Hundreds of millions of dollars have been wasted on unnecessary and overpriced equipment for Iraq's new army at a time when the United States and its allies are struggling to get the force in shape to battle insurgents, Iraqi officials say.

Iraqi authorities have opened inquiries into several cases of possible corruption at the defense ministry. The ministry official believed behind most of the questionable deals was removed from his job in June and banned from leaving the country.

"Corruption is widespread at the ministry. One of the cases alone is worth $226 million. The investigation is still going on," said legislator Kamal al-Saaidi, a member of the independent Supreme Anti-corruption Commission.

Most of the alleged unnecessary purchases were made during the term of interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, who took office after occupation authorities turned over sovereignty to Iraqis on June 28, 2004.

When new Defense Minister Saadoun al-Dulaimi took office in May, an investigation was opened into several alleged cases of corruption.

Former National Security Adviser Qassim Dawoud refused to speak about corruption at the ministry, citing the ongoing investigation.

Iraqi investigators are probing several weapons and equipment deals engineered by the dismissed official, former procurement officer Ziad Cattan, and other defense officials.

One case involves Polish weapons maker Bumar, which signed a $236-million contract in December to equip the Iraqi army with helicopters, ambulances, pistols, machine guns and water storage tanks. Added to other deals signed last year, Bumar's contracts with the Iraqi army totaled nearly $300 million. *AP*

ASTRONAUT Piers Sellers, suited up in Nasa's underwater Neutral Buoyancy Lab, uses tools devised by Nasa engineers to practice the repair technique that will be used by spacewalker Steve Robinson to repair shuttle Discovery on his upcoming spacewalk in this image from Nasa TV Aug. 2. REUTERS

American journalist killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD—American freelance journalist Steven Vincent was found dead in the southern Iraqi city of Basra, the US Embassy said Wednesday. Police said he had been shot multiple times after he and his Iraqi translator were abducted at gunpoint hours earlier.

"I can confirm to you that officials in Basra have recovered the body of journalist Steven Vincent," said embassy spokesperson Pete Mitchell. "The US Embassy is working with British military and local Iraqi officials in Basra to determine who is responsible for the death of this journalist. Our condolences go out to the family."

The embassy did not give the cause of death. However, Iraqi police in Basra said Vincent was abducted along with his female translator at gunpoint Tuesday evening. The translator, Nour Weidi, was seriously wounded.

Vincent and the translator were taken by five gunmen in a police car as they left a currency exchange shop, police Lt. Col. Karim al-Zaidi said. *AP*

Snuppy is world's first cloned dog

PARIS—South Korean scientists announced on Wednesday they had carried out the first successful cloning of a dog, creating a duplicate of a three-year-old Afghan hound by using the same technique that gave the world Dolly the Sheep.

The copycat canine, born on April 24, has been named Snuppy, for Seoul National University Puppy, they reported in Nature, the British weekly science journal.

Snuppy, with black, tan and white fur, is genetically identical to his father, according to DNA tests.

He joins sheep, mice, cows, goats, pigs, rabbits, cats, a mule, a horse, rats and a rare wild ox called a gaur in the list of animals that have been cloned since Dolly, the first mammal to be created from an adult cell, was born in Scotland in July 1996.

The technique, called somatic cell nuclear transfer, entails taking an egg and removing the nucleus that contains the DNA program for life.

The nucleus is then replaced by the nucleus of an adult cell taken from the animal which is to be cloned.

The reconstructed egg is then treated with chemicals or a jolt of electricity to make it divide. It then continues to grow in a dish filled with nurturing chemicals, until it becomes a cluster of cells big enough to be transplanted into the uterus of a surrogate mother.

Dogs have been among the trickiest of animals to clone, mainly because of the difficulty of acquiring eggs that are in a state of maturity.

In contrast to other mammal species, dogs ovulate when their eggs are immature. The eggs go to a special duct to mature for two or three days.

The South Korean team, led by Woo Suk Hwang of the university's College of Veterinary Medicine, solved the problem by gently flushing out the oviduct to harvest the mature eggs.

The donor nucleus for Snuppy came from the ear skin of a male Afghan hound, while the surrogate mother was a yellow Labrador retriever, which gave birth to the puppy. *AFP*

Discovery crew nervous about repair spacewalk

HOUSTON—Discovery astronauts preparing to carry out a risky repair to the underside of the shuttle admitted Tuesday they are nervous about the operation.

Astronaut Stephen Robinson will carry out the unprecedented repair Wednesday, taking a hacksaw and some forceps to cut two ceramic fiber strands that engineers fear could lead to a repeat of the Columbia disaster in 2003.

President George W. Bush telephoned the crew to praise the "risk-takers" of space exploration but one member said he had "misgivings" about the operation.

Robinson will at first try to pull off the strands by hand and then with forceps but if that does not work cut them off with a hacksaw.

"I am pretty comfortable with using tools very carefully," Robinson said in a press conference from Discovery. "But no doubt about it, this is going to be a very delicate task. But as I say a simple one."

Nasa experts are worried that the shuttle could overheat because of instability that the gap fillers, dangling about 2.5 cm from between thermal tiles on the underside of the shuttle, could cause during the descent to Earth.

Japanese astronaut Soichi Noguchi will accompany Robinson on the spacewalk, the third of the mission, which is the first since Columbia disintegrated during reentry on Feb. 1, 2003, killing all seven crew on board.

The Discovery crew went over the repair operation and prepared the makeshift hacksaw for Robinson, who said care had to be taken with every movement to avoid scraping the delicate tiles.

"The hacksaw is really a contingency device," Robinson said, "the idea is just to pull out this thin gap filler either by hand or with a pair of forceps, and we'll use the hacksaw only if necessary."

Andy Thomas, an Australian member of the crew, said the astronauts originally had "misgivings" about going underneath the shuttle. Such a repair has never been attempted in the quarter century history of shuttle flights. *AFP*

King Fahd buried in simple Riyadh grave

RIYADH—Saudi Arabia's King Fahd was buried in a simple unmarked grave on Tuesday after a brief funeral where Muslim leaders mourned the monarch who ruled a global oil giant for two turbulent decades.

In keeping with the kingdom's austere Islamic tradition, Fahd, who in life enjoyed enormous wealth and privilege, was laid to rest in a sprawling public cemetery in Riyadh alongside hundreds of other unidentified dirt graves.

Fahd died on Monday after 23 years ruling the strategic Gulf state which is both the world's biggest oil exporter and the cradle of Islam—drawing more than a billion faithful to turn five times a day toward Mecca in prayer.

In the Imam Turki bin Abdullah mosque in the capital, Muslim leaders from across the world joined ordinary Saudis and Fahd's successor and half-brother Abdullah to perform prayers for the dead. Women, segregated from men in the kingdom, were absent.

The brief afternoon ceremony was devoid of pomp. Fahd's body, wrapped in a brown shroud and laid on a bier, was carried out of the mosque and driven to his final resting place in an ambulance.

Hundreds of security forces mixed with mourners in the mosque and snipers were posted around the cemetery. A wave of attacks by supporters of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden had clouded Fahd's final, ailing years after his stroke in 1995.

An official said security forces were taking the same precautions "that any other government would take to secure a huge event like this with very high-profile guests."

Unlike many Muslim states, Saudi Arabia has set no mourning period, in keeping with Wahhabi acceptance of God's will without question. Saudi flags, emblazoned with the proclamation of faith "There is no God but Allah," flew at full mast.

Businesses opened as usual, though the mood was subdued. Reuters

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North Korea nuke talks hang in the balance, negotiators still at loggerheads

BEIJING—Talks aimed at ending the crisis over North Korea's nuclear programs hung in the balance on Wednesday, with the six parties deadlocked after more than a week and some delegates talking openly of breakdown.

Negotiators from the two Koreas, the United States, Russia, Japan and host China have been at the table for a record eight days and remain at loggerheads on the issue of when Pyongyang should dismantle its programs—before, or after, it receives US security guarantees and aid.

The fourth round of talks appeared destined to end without a formal joint statement. After days of wrangling over China-proposed drafts, the US delegation was questioning whether the parties should agree to disagree or return to their capitals with the latest draft text for consultations.

On the eve of the ninth day of talks, US chief negotiator Christopher Hill said: "I think the issue is how one winds this up, that is, does it wind up with an agreement, does it wind up with parties saying well, look, we have to do some more substantial consultations in capitals, or does it wind up in a flat-out disagreement."

Hill's view followed comments from North Korean officials, reported by Interfax, that if no agreement was reached on Wednesday the talks could be considered a failure. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

Mass vaccination of poultry

HANOI—Vietnam has launched a mass vaccination of poultry this week in two rural provinces to fight the bird flu virus, which international health officials warn could be the source of the next human flu pandemic. Officials plan to begin administering about 20 million shots in southern Tien Giang province and northern Nam Dinh province this week—the largest-scale bird flu vaccination conducted in Vietnam. If all goes well, the program could be expanded nationwide by year's end. "In Vietnam and in some Southeast Asian countries, the culling shows it is not stamping (bird flu) out," said To Long Thanh, vice director at Vietnam's National Center for Veterinary Diagnosis. "That means that you can cull or kill or destroy a lot of poultry, but it cannot eliminate or reduce the pathogenic virus. *AP*

7 US Marines killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD—Seven American Marines have been killed in fighting in Iraq's western Anbar province, the guerrilla heartland which keeps challenging US and Iraqi troops despite repeated security crackdowns. One of Iraq's most violent Islamic militant groups, Army of Ansar al-Sunna, claimed responsibility for the deaths, saying it had killed eight Marines. "The lions of monotheism succeeded in killing eight American Marines, slaughtering some of them and shooting the rest after ambushing them in Al Jazeera area, north of Haditha," it said in a statement posted on an Islamist website. Six of the Marines were killed on Monday near Haditha. They were engaged by insurgents with small arms. The seventh Marine was also killed by a roadside bomb near the town of Hit. *Reuters*

Russia bars US ABC News

MOSCOW—Moscow said on Tuesday it would bar journalists from US television ABC News from working in Russia after the network aired an interview with Chechen rebel leader Shamil Basayev. The Russian Foreign Ministry said accreditations for ABC reporters would not be renewed and, in the meantime, they would be banned from talking to officials. The Foreign Ministry statement said ABC was "now unwelcome to contact any Russian state organizations or bodies." ABC News President David Westin said he hoped "the Russian government will reconsider its decision." *Reuters*

Highest bidder for project

SINGAPORE—Hongkong Land Holdings Limited, Cheung Kong (Holdings) Ltd./Hutchinson Whampoa Ltd. and Keppel Land Ltd., the developers of One Raffles Quay at Marina Boulevard, have submitted the highest bid for the Business and Financial Centre (BFC) site at the New Downtown. For the tender submission, a new consortium was formed through three subsidiary companies, consisting of Hong Kong Land's Sageland Pte Ltd, Cheung Kong's Choicewide Group Limited, which is co-owned with Hutchinson Whampoa Limited, and Keppel Land's Bayfront Development Pte Ltd. All three subsidiary companies have equal shares in the joint venture. The BFC site comprises a gross floor area of 438,000 sq. m. The consortium commitment for the first phase of the development of approximately 158,000 sq. m., including option fees, would be in the order of S$765 million (US$450 million) based on the bid of S$4,101 per sq. m. (US$2,413 per sq. m.). Hong Kong Land is a major investor in Jardine Properties Inc., a developer of middle income projects in the Philippines.

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OPINION

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Surprises

EDITORIAL

WHAT'S the pro-administration majority in the House of Representatives really up to? Since the controversy over the "Hello, Garci" tapes broke out, the majority congressmen have been pulling one big surprise after another, starting with their decision to allow the playing of the tapes after initially objecting vigorously to it on the grounds that it would violate the Anti-Wire Tapping Law. Now they have agreed with the minority to adopt the same rules used in the impeachment of President Joseph Estrada in 2000.

Deputy Majority Leader Edcel Lagman, the principal sponsor of the draft rules on impeachment, said the members of the majority decided to adopt the old rules to disprove opposition claims that they would rig the rules to favor President Macapagal-Arroyo. He said the majority decision was also meant to end the debate over the rules and thus speed up deliberations on the impeachment complaint by the committee on justice.

If that is all there is to it, then there may be hope that the impeachment process will take its natural course instead of being aborted for one reason or another. Still some people find it hard to quash the queasy feeling that administration allies are taking one step backward to advance two steps forward or, better yet, they are abandoning the smaller battles so they can win the real war.

In the skirmish over the rules, the opposition can hardly claim complete victory. Opposition congressmen didn't get any assurance from the majority that once they have gathered the required number of votes—one-third of the House membership or 79—the impeachment complaint will be automatically transmitted to the Senate. On the contrary, administration congressmen are saying the complaint will have to be heard by the committee on justice, which will determine whether it is "sufficient in form and substance" and then submit a report to the whole House, where the complaint can be voted upon. The committee has all of 60 session days (or about three months) to act on the complaint, hardly the kind of timetable that promises a speedy resolution of the crisis now engulfing the nation.

It would appear that the opposition was forced to make a tactical retreat for the simple reason that it didn't have the necessary number of votes to shortcut the process. But once it wins 79 House members to its side, the move to send the complaint immediately to the Senate should be revived. Since two-thirds of the whole House membership can overturn the committee's recommendation, continuing the hearings would serve no other purpose but to delay the process.

In the meantime, the opposition should seize upon the hearings as an opportunity to convince both its colleagues (as well as the public) that it has a preponderance of evidence to prove its allegations and that it deserves their support. It is not a hopeless endeavor, no matter the superiority of numbers the majority now enjoys. Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar, a Nacionalista as well as a member of the majority coalition, says that a number of her colleagues are searching their souls and are likely to vote according to their conscience. Speaker Jose de Venecia, despite exuding confidence that Ms Arroyo can hold the loyalty of the majority, has said the same thing: congressmen will vote on the basis of their conscience.

The nation expects nothing less. Our people will be watching the proceedings very closely, and they will know if their representatives are playing blind to the evidence, deaf to the testimony and dumb to clear arguments. As in the past, the last thing they will want is to see the truth suppressed and lawmakers making decisions out of blind loyalty to the President or their party.

Present danger

FOREIGN COMMENT

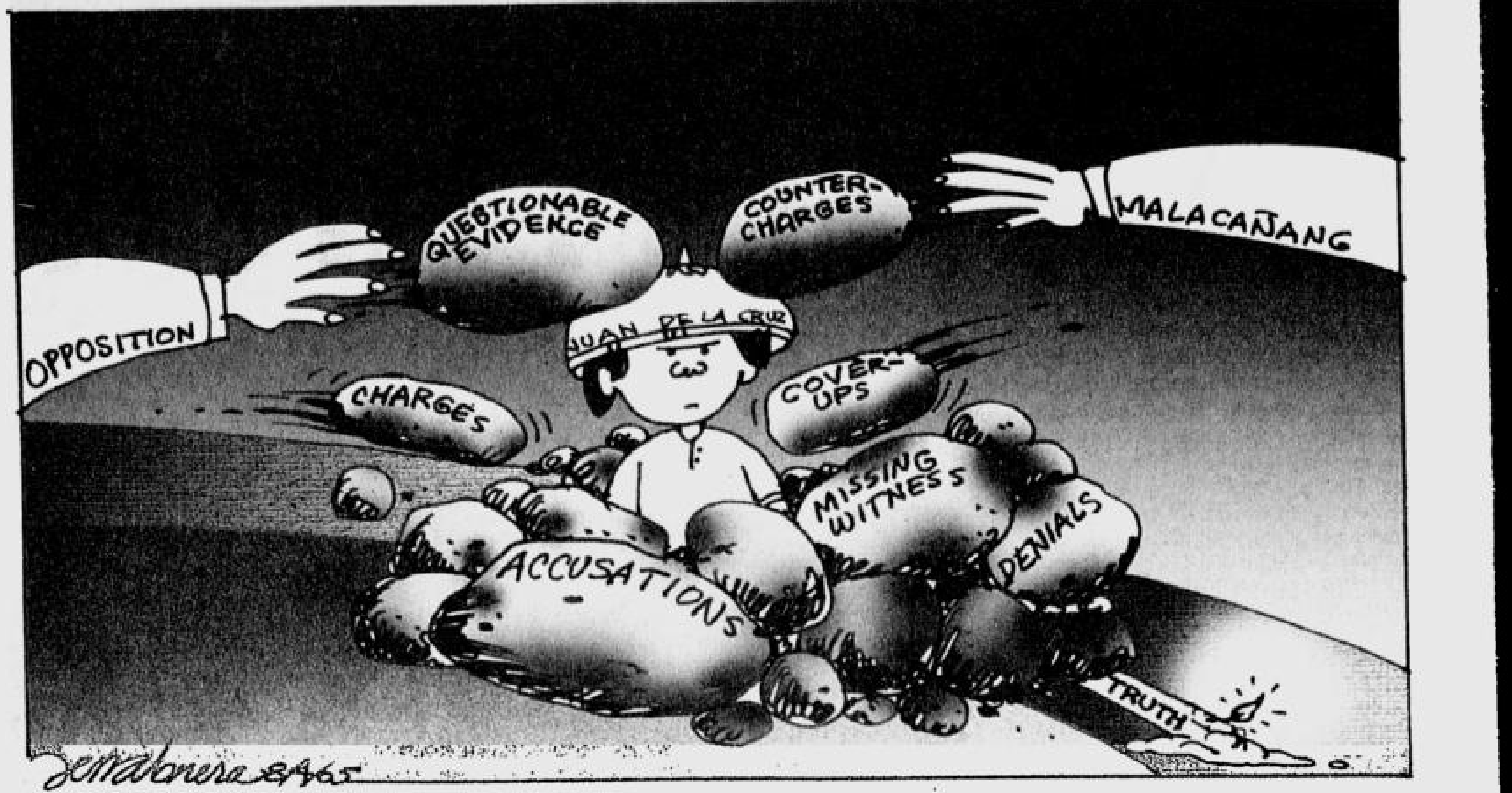
IN LESS than a month, terrorists have struck in Europe and Africa, leaving a trail of destruction and death. On July 7, they attacked the London subway leaving 56 people dead. In the latest attack that occurred in Egypt, over 80 people were killed.

Expectedly, leaders have condemned the attacks as senseless and called for the world to unite against terror. Even as they do so the one undeniable fact is that terrorism is spiraling at an unprecedented level, spreading its tentacles to nearly every place in the world even those that thought themselves immune to attacks.

With the attack on Egypt, the message that no one is safe is now loud and clear. Terror is a clear, present danger.

It is no longer excusable for any country to sit back and treat terrorism as something that only happens to some countries and not others. The world must come together and fight this evil in a decisive manner.

The Standard (Nairobi, Kenya)



Taxicab tutorial

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

WHAT has a taxi driver, barreling through traffic gridlock, got to do with today's crisis and Mark Twain?

"Our *mga (expletive deleted) ina* leaders made us believe it's better to have Filipinos, even if they'd run government like hell," he said while cutting lanes. I braced for a crash. "We got what they wanted."

"Life here is rough," he continued while braking behind a scavenger's cart. I let my breath out slowly. "But Filipinos with foreign spouses must be embarrassed over what's happening here. *Nakakahiya*. We were better off under the Americans."

"Mark Twain wouldn't agree," I mumbled.

"Mark—who?" he asked.

This American humorist, I explained, dismissed Washington's decision to take over the Philippines as a laughable status symbol. The May 10, 1907 issue of the Baltimore Sun's interview with Twain had this:

"The funniest thing was when at the close of the Spanish-American War the United States paid poor decrepit old Spain $20 million for the Philippines. It was just a case of this country buying its way into good society.

"Honestly, when I read in the papers that this deal had been made, I laughed until my sides ached.

"There were the Filipinos fighting like blazes for their liberty. Spain would not hear of it. The United States stepped in, and after they had licked the enemy to a standstill, instead of freeing the Filipinos, they paid that enormous amount for an island which is of no earthly account to us.

"(We) just wanted to be like the aristocratic countries of Europe which have possessions in foreign waters. The United States wanted to be in the swim, and it, too, had to branch out, like an American heiress buying a Duke or an Earl. Sounds well, but that's all."

What's-his-name got it right about our fighting for freedom, the cabbie persisted. "The Guinness Book of World Records says Andres Bonifacio was the first Asian to successfully challenge foreign colonizers."

"There's nothing about Bonifacio in the Guinness Book of World Records 2005," I said. A fixture in Guinness' "Crime" section in the 1990s, the Marcoses were dislodged since the 2000 edition. That triggered a philippic on how Marcos ripped off Japanese war reparations. But that was when we arrived and I dropped off.

This cab-ride tutorial was stripped of administration spin and untainted by opposition bile. Was it a state of the nation message from "below"?

He reflected our stunted national self-esteem. Like most Filipinos, he went through the economic wringer daily. The $60-a-barrel oil hits cabbies first.

And he saw clearly that massive impoverishment occurs as so-called "leaders" gambol in ill-gotten luxury, blind to the misery, cocksure there'll be no accounting.

None of those who tortured under martial law were ever tried. Coconut farmers haven't received refunds from the coconut levy, imposed by the dictatorship, over two decades ago.

"There's a widespread impression that the most pervasive rot today is massive corruption," Cebu Daily News said in an editorial, titled "Crime pays."

"It is not so," the paper says. "Rather, it's the miasma of cynical impunity that corrodes democratic governance. Daily experience tells us the law is skewed in favor of the affluent and vests them with impunity. Thus, the list of those who thumb their noses at the law is long."

What aggravates this impunity is the fact that, in our lives and institutions, far too many work by "pecuniary decency." Cash is the sole yardstick of value. "Self worth equals net worth," a banker explains.

What is decent and human is overwhelmed by appetites, not shaped by "values that endure even after the sun goes out." We saw that in Erap's second envelope, those Mega-Pacific election computers or the "Garci" tapes. This results in an economy where the powerful batten off on the weak.

But context is not destiny. Repeated betrayal of the poor is not inevitable. Change is needed. Governance must be overhauled so that the basic human needs of the poor command first priority. Measures that reinforce skills should replace doles. Our scarce resources must broaden options for people, like our cab driver.

"There has never been this number of poor people in the Philippines," Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales said. He'd just visited a Maricaban hovel, where squatter families huddled. "It was broad daylight outside," the INQUIRER reported. But inside the hovel, it was "as though night had fallen."

That image of darkness resonates. Fridays I'd drive the wife and friends to the pediatric charity ward in a run-down public hospital to bring medicines, etc. Once, we came across an almost totally blind girl, singing softly a lullaby to herself. She was all of 5—too young to sing of "old unhappy far-off things/And battles long ago."

Her left eye was gone, the emaciated mother explained. Early treatment could have saved the right. But they never could scrape up enough loose change for the jeepney fare to the hospital. Now, she faced a prospect of night falling, "even if it was broad daylight outside."

The cab driver, Maricaban hovel dwellers and the girl of the lullaby "do not belong to another race of creatures, bound on other journeys," as Charles Dickens wrote. "We are fellow passengers to the grave."

They deserve far better than Erap who offers himself as alternative head of government, Senators Franklin Drilon and Mar Roxas sprinting for president, and below the radar screen, Eduardo Cojuangco and his Brat Pack positioning for a grab, at a prime minister's post, should that appear.

"These are all honest men," the bitter Spanish proverb says. "But my cloak is not to be found."

* * *

E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph

Time out

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

TIME out to talk about more serious things. There's a bit of good news amid the squalor of bad news in this country, and that is the lease on life digital and independent ("indie") films are giving the local movie industry.

In case you still haven't heard, the local movie industry is virtually dead. You can hear its dying gasps from here to Aparri. That industry, which used to produce close to 300 movies a year, is now producing only 70 or so. And the survivors aren't doing all that well. Reputable directors and actors have turned to TV instead, where work may not be vastly lucrative but it is at least steady. Their talents though are being frittered away in productions—fantaseryes, telenovelas, and so on—that cater to the least common denominator. These are hard times.

The obvious way out seems to be for the industry to explore new avenues—new stories, new faces, new ways of filmmaking—to lure back audiences. But exploration or experimentation is the last thing producers want to do, given the high cost of making movies, particularly star fees, and given the not-so-sterling showing of movies that have done exactly that over the years. Their instinct has been to rely on formula, which demonstrably no longer works. It's been a chicken-and-egg situation for some time, one seemingly without resolution.

Digital and Indie films, which are often one and the same, may just have found the answer to it. They are relatively cheaper to make. And their makers can afford to experiment the way the producers of commercial movies cannot, or do not. They have lower costs—cheaper equipment, lower fees (the better-known faces are going to them for the psychic income more than the financial one)—and are in a better position to recover them even with smaller audiences.

Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil, the director of "Mga Pusang Gala" (Stray Cats), tells me she used digital cameras that cost P3,000 a day. Their analog counterparts range from P15,000 to P20,000 a day. Of course, the high-end digital cameras would have cost P40,000 a day, but only George Lucas' cousins in the Philippines would contemplate renting that.

Nap Jamir, the cinematographer of "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," agrees and says the trick is using the P3,000-a-day digital cameras creatively to overcome their limitations. Lighting in particular can do wonders to hide the blemishes. Which he shows in "Pagdadalaga": the graininess shows only in the daytime street scenes, which look a bit overexposed.

If those two movies, "Mga Pusa" and "Pagdadalaga," are anything to go by, Filipino movies are more likely to recover faster than Filipino politics. Both represent the wave of the future in terms of infusing local filmmaking with new sensibilities. "Mga Pusa" makes the bigger gamble by aiming at a middle-class audience, with its middle-class themes, middle-class language (the dialogue is in English in many parts) and middle-class attitudes. It adopts a self-conscious or self-mocking stance toward this: One of its main characters is a romance novelist for a company whose editor cannot appreciate writing stories for the middle class because their audience is *masa*. In one scene, his editor tells him no *masa* woman lives alone, his premise for a story is implausible. His editor tries to corroborate this with his secretary who promptly answers, "I do."

I can only hope the movie itself meets with a long queue in movie houses defying "wise-money" expectations.

"Mga Pusa" tells of a gay man, Boyet (Ricky Davao), and his neighbor, a single woman, Marta (Irma Adlawan), who are at the mercy of their itinerant lovers. Its theme is (almost inevitably) that literal stray cats are more worth caring for than their human counterparts. It goes on to explore the relationships between Boyet and Irma and their lovers with impressive richness and complexity. One may quibble about the tone being a little uneven at times (it strives to maintain a tragicomic one throughout, though not always successfully) and with some parts being a little predictable, but those are nothing. They are more than offset by the movie's humongous virtues, not the least of them the acting and directing. Ellen essays one very mature and confident directorial job for a first outing, and the lead players are fantastic, Adlawan in particular.

The movie's many allures start off with its title, which of course is richly ironic, the coming-of-age, or into maidenhood, of a boy named Maximo. The curious title refers to a gay boy living in the slums with his family of petty crooks who falls in love with a cop, which divides his loyalties. That premise, while being dramatic, also risks being contrived, and the movie teeters on the edge of the latter in some parts. But it manages on the whole to walk the tightrope, and ferociously gracefully. The movie is at its best in exploring the relationships between the family members. It does a magnificent job not just giving a face to people who proverbially live on the knife's edge but in demolishing the stereotypes about them, which are really just two ways of saying the same thing. It gets a trifle shaky in the dynamics between (the quite literal) cops and robbers.

Michiko Yamamoto, the scriptwriter who also wrote "Magnifico," gets to be a better storyteller by the day. The performances are uniformly riveting. Ping Medina (Pen's son) is a revelation. But the plaudits easily go to Nathan Lopez (Maximo) who was given a special citation by the Cinemalaya Awards. It is totally deserved. That boy is going places, very far places.

What can I say? It's nice to know that art at least is flourishing in this country even if morals are not. Never mind the local movie industry. Do yourself a favor. Go watch these movies.

No return to the bottle

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

WHEN I first saw opposition witness Michaelangelo Zuce on TV, as he accused President Macapagal-Arroyo of having witnessed the bribing of Comelec officials at her La Vista residence in January 2004, the first image that came to my mind was his namesake. I imagined that if the great renaissance painter Michelangelo Buonarroti were of his Filipino namesake's size and weight as he painted the frescoes in the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, heaven knows what damage he would have wrought had he come crashing down from the scaffolding. How many cardinals might have been crushed to death!

To carry this imagery to contemporary setting, the second Michaelangelo landed as a huge dud on our pathetic political scene, not least because the public has grown quite numb to the torrents of accusations against GMA. In political combat, as in many other things, there's such a thing as diminishing returns. Unfortunately for the opposition, it doesn't know when to stop dishing out its blows. An overkill. Secondly, Zuce's credibility is totally shot. Such a huge man with a huge need of money is very susceptible to bribery. There's also the logical query raised by the Standard Today yesterday: Why was Zuce's appearance announced by Sandra Cam, another opposition witness with a string of cases? Thirdly, it stretches the imagination to believe Zuce's assertion that GMA had gathered key Comelec officials only to have her pal, Lilia Pineda, distribute P30,000 to each of them.

* * *

Both chambers of Congress have resumed their respective inquiries supposedly in aid of legislation: the House on the wiretapping controversy, and the Senate on "juetenggate." The public, however, cannot see why these inquiries have to continue, when the impeachment process has already begun in the House. Like a jukebox, the Senate called Zuce the day after he spoke at a press conference, when logic dictated that he should just testify in the House committee on justice headed by Rep. Simeon Datumanong. The same is true of the wiretapping inquiry in the House: *uulitin na naman ito* sa justice committee.

To show the sheer uselessness of these inquiries, there is a study showing that while the Senate conducted 34 inquiries during the 12th Congress, only one piece of legislation resulted from them. Someone observed that the Congress charade would come to a halt if there would be no TV coverage. I cannot agree more.

* * *

The opposition has thrown everything, including the kitchen sink, at GMA over the past two months, in the hope of making her resign. It has raked up allegation after allegation and paraded a dozen witnesses of questionable character. After failing to get respectable crowds at rallies, it gave up trying to force her to resign and shifted to the impeachment arena. But in the House it began bellyaching about the rules to govern this process, after failing to get the 79 signatures to accompany the filing of the complaint. The opposition threatened to go back to the streets if it didn't get the rules it liked. To cut short the debate and get the process underway in the justice committee, Majority Leader Prospero Nograles and Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, who adroitly sponsored the rules on the floor, gamely agreed to adopt the rules for the Erap impeachment in the 11th Congress.

* * *

Now the opposition is demanding that the administration congressmen allow a "creeping" impeachment, wherein once it gathers 79 votes all committee deliberations would cease and the complaint would be sent posthaste to the Senate. But this time, Nograles and Lagman and their allies are standing pat: should the 79 votes materialize, the complaint will still be heard by the committee which will prepare a report on which every congressman will vote in plenary.

I suspect that the opposition is making noise every step of the way because it is afraid it won't have the needed 79 votes. I doubt if right-thinking lawmakers would go along with the opposition's desire to overthrow GMA in order to save Erap from a court conviction and push its "Resign All" and caretaker government agenda. As for the Left, their moralizing is not catching fire. At a recent press conference by militant party-list representatives, some media people asked who among them had not called a Comelec personnel during a campaign or post-election period. Not a hand was raised.

* * *

A recent SWS poll is said to have found that 7 out of 10 adult Filipinos believe there are no provisions in the 1987 Constitution that need to be changed at the moment. But then again, the same poll found out that the average Filipino's knowledge of the Constitution remained "poor"; in fact, a huge 73 percent of the 1,200 respondents admitted having little or almost no knowledge of it. This only indicates to the proponents of Charter change that there is a big need to conduct a massive information and education drive on this issue. I believe that if the people were to be fully informed of the benefits of a parliamentary/federal system and their fears over various aspects are addressed, they would embrace it.

* * *

The survey also found out that social classes A, B and C consistently showed the most interest in amending constitutional provisions, rather than the D and E classes. This again is not surprising, as the Charter change issue belongs to the realm of the intellect and the better-educated classes can appreciate it much easier. But this doesn't mean that the broad masses cannot appreciate it when it is fully explained. The task of educating the people ought to be spearheaded by the members of the House as well as local government executives. Charter change is an issue that can no longer be returned to the bottle, so to speak. It has acquired a life of its own and more and more enlightened people are welcoming the great debate.

A small scary story

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

WHILE big national issues rage, while the big guys slug it out in the national arena and play to the bloodthirsty gallery, many Filipinos continue to live their lives in the shadows and in quiet desperation. If these skirmishes were projected on a big video wall, we, the spectators and passersby would only cower as the big, dark shadows and images overwhelm us. The cheering and the cajoling come from the bettors lusting for the spoils.

* * *

Many Filipinos keep on with their day-to-day chores, wondering when and how it will all end. In the meantime, the stereophonic, cacophonic, dumbing din becomes even more assaulting to the senses. We are the proverbial lonely crowd waiting for an intermission and the exit door to swing open so that we could take in a chestful of fresh air.

While the fighting goes on in the big arena, thanks to its life-size projection in the media, our so-called peace and order guardians are busy looking after the top. The rest of us down below have to look after our own survival and safety. Evil is abroad in the land and stalks its prey with freedom and impunity.

During the President's State of the Nation Address, when it seemed all the police and security forces were concentrated in one battle area, the petty and big criminals must have had a field day.

Here is an account from Cierlene Rivera, a mother who saw evil up close. The incident happened two months ago when the "Now Showing" political drama was just unfolding.

"Last June 3, at about 9:30 p.m., my seven-year-old daughter, her *yaya* and I had dinner at Pancake House on Quezon Avenue. When we were almost done, a man came inside the restaurant, headed straight to our table and pulled out a gun. He pointed the 9mm at me and demanded for my cell phone. I was stunned and tried to convince myself that it was a dream. After all, I was inside a respectable restaurant.

"Again, the man asked for my phone and then my bag. Out of fear for our safety, I handed them over. He then pointed the gun at the *yaya* and my daughter who was trembling with fear. The man wanted my daughter's backpack and the *yaya* gave it to him. Then he went out of the restaurant.

"I immediately held my daughter who was trying to hold back her tears. She had turned white and couldn't speak well and just kept on mumbling. I looked at the waiters and the lady who looked like the manager. They were all standing by the counter, looking at us as if watching a movie. When I asked if nobody saw what happened, they answered that they saw a man come in, go to our table and point a gun at us. They said they saw him take all our belongings. *'Akala ho namin kasama ninyo,'* they said. The manager even insisted that she thought the man was my husband!

"I couldn't, for the life of me, understand how someone who was supposedly my companion (or my husband) would do such a thing and divest us of everything at gun point. Even if that were so, would they allow a crime to be committed right inside their restaurant? They just stood there and worse, after the incident, nobody even bothered to call the police. The only call I heard was that of the manager calling someone from her cell phone to say that a customer will not be able to pay because she was just held up!

"I had to take my daughter to the area near the kitchen which was farthest from the entrance because she was so scared the hold-up man would come back. Everyone was just staring at us. I even had to instruct the manager to lock the door so that my daughter would have some feeling of assurance.

"I was so furious and disgusted at the manager and staff of Pancake House for not being able to do anything. I asked where the security guard was. There was none.

"I then thought of the cell phones, the credit and ATM cards that were taken. I asked the staff if I could use their phone so I could have the cell phones blocked. Their phone had no dial tone. This was Pancake House on Quezon Avenue. The manager lent me her cell phone, but I was trembling and had a mental block and I could not remember any number. I sought their help for the hotline of Smart and Globe and the credit card companies and the banks but nobody knew anything. I just dialed home.

"On June 15, I reported the incident to the Baler police station which had jurisdiction over the area. Everyone in the station was surprised to learn about the incident. They wondered why no one from Pancake House reported the incident right after it happened so they could do an investigation. On my part, I could not report right away because I wanted the phones and the cards blocked that very night. I did not want my daughter with me at the police station as that might add to her trauma. We also had a death in the family and school was about to start.

"Friends who learned about the incident wondered why I was the only one held up and why it happened when it was almost closing time, why the hold-up man did not go to the cashier to get the day's cash and instead chose to get my bag, why only my phones were taken and not those of the staff, why none of the waiters went to seek help from the guard of Red Ribbon next door.

"Now my daughter is suffering from her trauma. She is fearful of men who enter restaurants. She asks whether I am holding to my bag tight enough, where my cell phone and car key are. She is scared someone might take her and that she would never see me again. Her school guidance counselor has been very sympathetic and has counseling sessions with her."

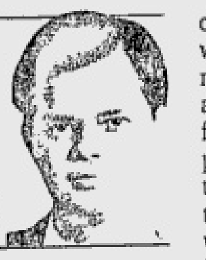
Cierlene says she is still waiting for the police report which Pancake House claimed they had.

* * *

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

An apparent consensus

THE LONG VIEW



Manuel L. Quezon III

THE PERCENTAGE of Filipinos who want Charter change would have been enough to elect Fidel V. Ramos but not enough to elect Joseph Estrada. That's pretty pathetic. But it also, perhaps, explains why many supporters of Charter change, as proposed by the President, the Speaker and former President Ramos, come from the ranks of Lakas-CMD: they're the same people who voted Ramos into office in 1992.

The latest Social Weather Stations survey, which took place before the President's State of the Nation Address, shows that 30 percent of Filipinos want Charter change. That's 10 percent better than the 20 percent of Filipinos who favored Cha-cha in 2003. If the figures keep growing at that rate, we can look forward to a national consensus either by 2009, when at least 50 percent of Filipinos will be in favor of Charter change; or better yet, to 2011, when perhaps 60 percent of Filipinos, an incontestable majority, will finally want it.

But for now, 70 percent of the country is content with the present Constitution. That's an almost impregnable majority.

The SWS says the Visayas is 40 percent in favor of Cha-cha. This still leaves a formidable majority of 60 percent against. Mindanao is even more opposed to constitutional changes than Luzon or the Visayas: only 19 percent of the people in that island want constitutional change.

As I suggested in a previous column, there may be grounds to think that federalism is an idea to which more people might be open: 34 percent of Filipinos are agreeable to it; 28 percent are against; the undecided on the issue (34 percent) are as many as those already open to the idea. Still, the survey, which is only a snapshot in time, suggests that a national consensus exists: for the presidential, unitary and bicameral system of government.

This means that it is wrong to say there is a groundswell, anywhere in the nation, for federalism, or parliamentarism, or unicameralism. What there is, in fact, is more of an openness to exploring these concepts; but "openness" is far different from enthusiastic—or even grudging,—"acceptance." This means our political leadership runs the risks of being out of synch with the people's sentiments, though, of course, the consequences of being held accountable for going against public opinion is next to nothing.

Rush the constitutional amendment now through Congress, and rush a referendum next year for its ratification. The advantage will be with the political parties, which have the machinery needed to get their followers to vote for a new constitution and prevent the recording of votes opposed to a new charter. In fact, there might be little need for vote-rigging since, historically, Filipinos aren't so eager about participating in referendums on constitutional amendments.

Another interesting finding of the survey is that the A, B and C classes are consistently the most interested in changing constitutional provisions. This points to the larger agenda for this exercise, which is the elimination of the so-called *masa* vote (which is difficult to control) at least on a national basis. This means Cha-cha is a reactionary exercise in that it seeks to negate what already exists. And what exists? A democracy in which the public cannot relate to either the rhetoric or the priorities of the professional political class. This means the class finds itself threatened by more accomplished communicators who are high on charisma but low on either integrity or depth, depending on which part of the professional political circles you talk to.

Our public and our professionals made the bed they now refuse to lie in. They talk of the dangers of popularity and of weakened political parties, when they (or to be precise, their ancestors) dismantled the safeguards against both popularity and the deterioration of party government. My first columns for this newspaper explained how popularity began to trump party control: through the elimination of bloc voting, which was attacked as "undemocratic." The removal of bloc voting eliminated the institutional means for enforcing both party loyalty and party discipline.

The other flaws of the present system come about when those without political experience define our political rules. The decision to encourage a multiparty system, without run-off elections to ensure solid majorities for the winners of national contests, was the gravest mistake of all. It condemned the country to elections in which there is no incentive for self-discipline on the part of candidates, or coalition-building on the part of factions or parties. Since even a minority winner can take all, there's no need to think ahead with regard to the consequences of holding an office that has traditionally relied on broad national mandates. I can't say it often enough: percentage-wise (which is the only number system that counts in elections), the most uncharismatic president of the Third Republic, obtained a higher percentage of the votes than the most popular president of the Fifth Republic—Garcia got 41.3 percent; Estrada got 39.6 percent.

Now, since it seems achieving a national consensus is more in keeping with the consensus that exists among the political parties (Charter change, Ramos-style, after all, is not just a Lakas-CMD affair, but rather, a group effort involving the Liberals, the Nacionalistas, the Nationalist People's Coalition, which is really the Nacionalista Party-Cojuangco Wing, and so on), then our energies should be devoted to trying to convince the public that the political parties should get what they desire. As it is, it seems to me that the public is, indeed, extremely institutional in its orientation. It likes having a presidency, for example, even if it doesn't like the President.

Marikina shoes, Batangas brews

YOUNG BLOOD

Rene B. Borromeo

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

ONE day, I found myself explaining to my girlfriend the functional necessity of foreign debt and government red tape and corruption. I decided to talk about such stuff to avoid answering a question put up by her parents: Would I accept some old shoes to add to my collection consisting of one pair of rubber sneakers for casual wear and a pair of Doc Martens bought from the *ukay-ukay* for formal occasions? She had explained that they were wondering what I was wearing to my meetings with government officials and representatives of international institutions.

Being happy with two pairs of shoes was a nugget of wisdom I got from my father. He used to tell me that I needed only two pairs for as long as I took good care of them and kept them clean. I, of course, followed the first part of his advice and promptly forgot the second (parents can only do so much for the education of their children). Wearing shoes was already a great paradigm shift for me, and keeping them clean needed another lifetime of childhood conditioning.

I used to prefer sandals over shoes. Sandals were more comfortable to wear during marches to denounce almost everybody and everything. Quite often, the targets of such protests were the World Bank and the government, whose representatives I have been meeting lately, prompting my girlfriend's parents to offer me those old shoes. That offer prompted me to start my lecture on foreign debt and government red tape and corruption.

Without foreign debts, I told her, the road going to the Marikina River Banks, where we once drank beer with our friends, would not be there. Likewise, we would not have a port in Batangas where we had boarded a boat to Mindoro to meet her beloved Mangyans.

She agreed, but quickly pointed out that I used to argue that foreign debts were the cause of our nation's woes. And they came with a lot of political cost, she added, sounding like I used to.

I could not remember any imperialist maneuvers in any of the meetings I had attended recently. But I did recall that the World Bank insisted that those who had to be resettled in Marikina be paid their due, and that the JBIC insisted that 90 percent of families to be resettled in Batangas be assured of employment. That's my job, I told her.

I used to demand the same things in the streets, shouting and frothing in the mouth, but the power was there all along. Now I get to do my advocacy in an air-conditioned room that serves free snacks. And advocacy is seldom needed: Philippine laws require that its people and the environment be taken care of. I almost kicked my own butt for knowing all this just recently, after nearly getting skin cancer from all the sun I got marching in the streets.

Then my girlfriend shifted her attention to government officials. She thought it queer when I told her government officials, like other people, are basically good. We just hate them because they are victims of bureaucracy—and unfortunately we cannot do without it. I cannot wait for the know-it-alls, who keep on blabbering that things should be this way and that, to get into power and start institutionalizing processes to deliver their vision, only to find themselves suddenly wallowing in the same mess. Our government is far from a Utopia (if there ever existed one) but it has a process of cleansing itself.

But surely corruption is intrinsically evil, my girlfriend protested.

In reply, I told her that some of our country's best and brightest are in the government service and they are getting paid less than their counterparts in the private sector, in some kind of economic redistribution.

She told me she was beginning to believe that I was taking opium—the one that Karl Marx had warned about—or that I was taking too much caffeine from all those Batangas brews.

I pointed out to her that she must have noted undertones of sarcasm in the words I said. After all, I was once the king of cynicism (which is probably genetic) and maybe I was just trying to convince myself about what I said. Nonetheless, I have long been cured of the Superman syndrome. I cannot save the world. I am here primarily to exist. I just take small pinches of the human abstractions of justice, freedom and the brotherhood of men whenever I can.

My girlfriend and I are struggling to maintain a long-distance relationship. She sends me notices about job openings in the metropolis. And she's helping me save for a new pair of shoes.

Rene B. Borromeo, 29, is a project manager in an environmental management consulting firm based in Los Baños, Laguna.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

If you are sending your contributions by e-mail, please address it to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address and information about your age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with.

THEY SAID

Actors

"Not all actors can be good politicians but all politicians must be good actors."

—A Palace official on repackaging President Macapagal-Arroyo

Liberty films

"Indie films have the power to shape things. [As filmmakers] we have an obligation to uplift the minds of the audience, to liberate them from the traditions and values they've grown accustomed with in mainstream films. That's how I define the indie movement: Films that are free from everything and that can free everyone."

—Sigfreid Barros Sanches on how shooting the indie way gives one so much freedom

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Where the true battle is

I COMMEND President Macapagal-Arroyo for her gallant efforts to lead the nation in the midst of political turmoil. As an ordinary citizen, I would like to throw her plea for Filipinos to work for a strong economy back to her. If she truly loves this nation, what should she do to bring it forward, regardless of what her endless stream of advisers (who have their own interests to protect) say?

Given the great power and responsibility she has been vested with, what can she give the Filipino people to look up to? The rising cost of living and the increasing exorbitant taxes are bleak motivators.

As Ms Arroyo works to provide for the poorest of the poor, she should not forget the broad labor force—those of us who make the economic cogwheels and engines of this nation run, and who pay the proper income taxes regularly. The financial pressure makes us feel like we're being sucked into the vicious cycle of poverty, from which we have worked so hard and so desperately to get away.

The battle is not in the streets or in the halls of Malacañang. The true battle is in Ms Arroyo's heart. Is she on the right side?

—JET BOISER-ROSALES,
American Bio-Clinical Laboratories Int'l,
L/G Richville Corporate Tower,
Madrigal Business Park,
Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City

In fairness to EPCIB directors, officers

THIS is in reaction to Conrado Banal III's column, "If it ain't broker." (PDI, 8/2/05) I have previously opted to remain silent despite the continuing tirades of Banal against the Equitable PCIBank and some of its directors and officers, but I believe it is now incumbent upon me to react to his lies to do justice to the reputation of all the parties—Antonio L. Go who represented the Go family, SSS president and CEO Corazon S. de la Paz, GSIS president and general manager Winston F. Garcia, lawyer Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez who represented Trans Middle East Corp., and lawyer Nilo T. Divina—who attended the meetings called by Bangko Sentral Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. last July 20.

As president and CEO, I was requested to be present in two meetings. The meetings were called for the sole purpose of ensuring that the bank can continue to conduct normal operations and service the needs of its clients. It was clear to all the parties that any suggestions to be discussed during the meetings will all be pursuant to the said objective—the protection of the bank and its stakeholders.

Banal's statement that "the Tetangco panel simply wanted the government side to give way to the Go family" is a malicious lie which casts aspersions on all those who were in the meetings. Discussed in the meetings were three main topics:

1. To allow the EPCIB's management to continue running the day-to-day affairs of the bank and to exercise its authority under the limits previously granted to it.

2. To minimize heated public discussions of the shareholder issues as these may cause undue concerns on the part of the bank's clients and depositors.

3. For the major shareholder groups, to continue discussions so that a final resolution of the various issues can be arrived at as soon as possible, including the final composition of the board, where all shareholder groups would have the proper representation by virtue of their proportionate shares in the bank.

I can attest that the discussions were very open and cordial. There was never any impression on the part of the shareholders' representatives that the BSP panel was taking sides.

It is very sad that Banal would make up a story portraying that the meetings, wherein he was not even present, had objectives other than ensuring the protection of the bank and its clients. I do not know what motivated him to insist on a particular column slant, which none of the parties in the meetings ever saw.

I also take this opportunity to comment on Banal's continuing lies against my person and his oft repeated statements that I have been siding with the Go family. I believe that the best proof that this allegation is false and one which is not shared by any of the major shareholder groups is the fact that the existing management team under my leadership was elected by both boards of directors.

—RENE J. BUENAVENTURA,
president and
chief executive officer,
Equitable PCI Bank, Makati City

LETTERS

RP educated

WHAT is this fondness of the Philippine media to constantly refer to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as a US-educated economist? In her biography (Office of the President Website), it is told that she did not graduate from Georgetown University but from Assumption College, magna cum laude. She got her master's degree in economics from the Ateneo de Manila University and her doctorate from the University of the Philippines. I believe those institutions are still located in the Philippines. Shouldn't being a product of the supposedly premier universities of the country be a source of pride?

Having a few courses in a US university—like a summer law workshop at Harvard, or a summer course at the New York University film school—does not automatically make a person US-educated. It is too presumptuous to claim being US-educated for just a few courses without the diploma. Are our institutions of learning in the Philippines that bad that we have to gloss over diplomas earned from them and would rather highlight a few courses taken at a US university?

I am still proud of being a product of Philippine education (I am a proud alumnus of the Saint Louis University in Baguio City, not St. Louis, Missouri) despite having a real US education. (I got an advanced degree from a research university in Baltimore, Maryland.) No matter where I go, I will always be a true-blue Louisian, and a proud Filipino.

—JUNIE DELIZO,
delizoj@co.rockland.ny.us

Wrong on Newsbreak

IN HIS July 29 column, Vic Agustin discredited Newsbreak and the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ), classifying them among the "Philippine paid press." He said that by receiving grants from foreign institutions, we are "adroitly skirting the constitutional ban on foreign ownership of local media and foreign lobby restrictions." Agustin is wrong on both counts.

Accepting foreign grants does not, by any means, make the grantor an owner of the institution to which the grant is given. Newsbreak and the PCIJ are separate institutions. However, we have always disclosed our grants. If Agustin did his research at all, he would have known all of these. And we would gladly have answered any inquiries from him. But true to form, he wrote without any care for facts.

Agustin is unclear about "foreign lobby restrictions." If he is saying that Newsbreak, by receiving foreign grants, is lobbying for certain interests, then he's way off the mark. Our stories speak for themselves. In the five years that we've been around, we've tried our best to be independent and, like many hard-working journalists, we have adhered to the rigorous standards of journalism.

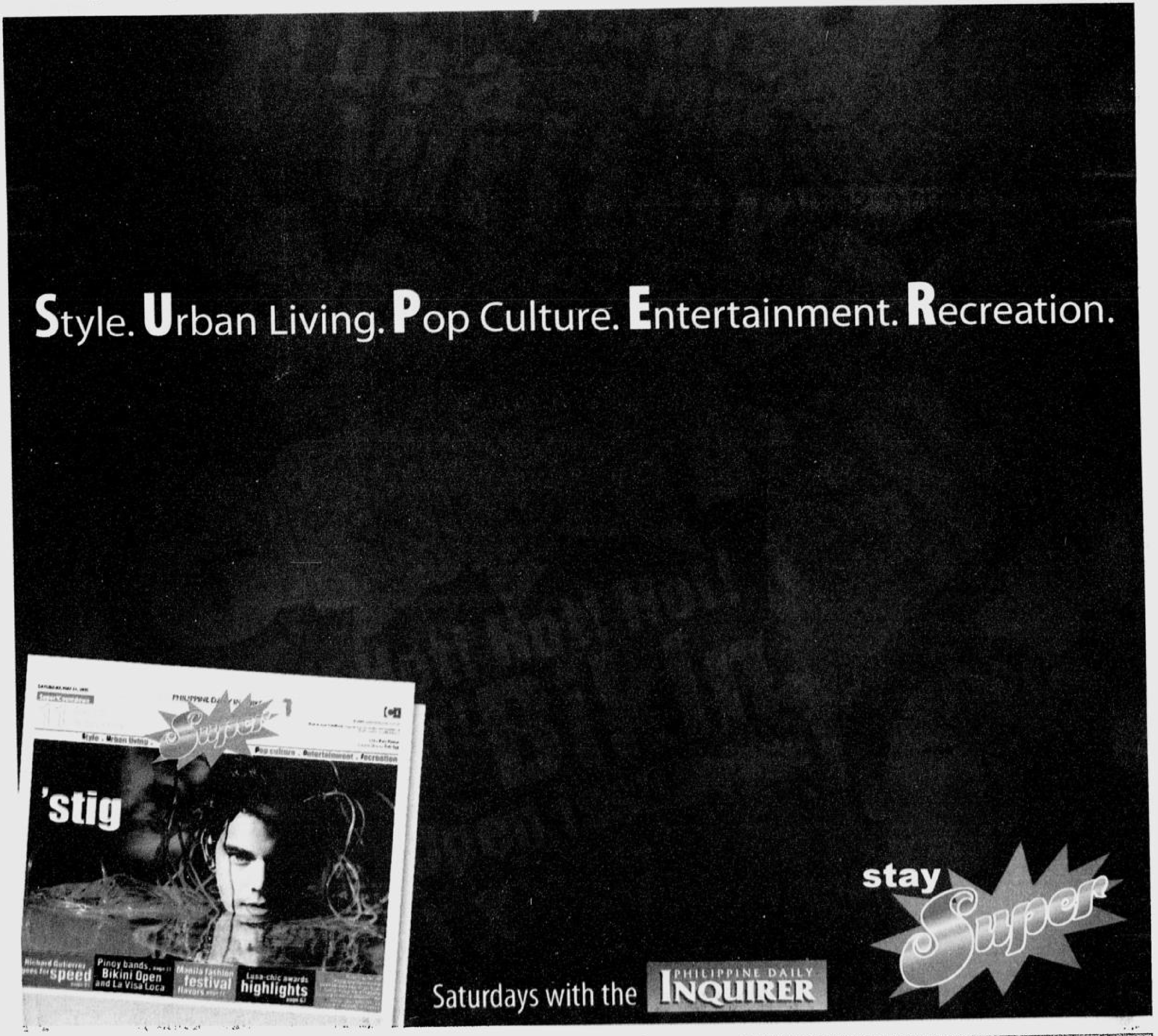
He also got the information wrong that "majority of the Newsbreak staffers are themselves correspondents/stringers for the foreign press" and that "a number of them also report to the same Washington/New York editors that [Raymond] Bonner [of the New York Times] reports to." Of the 10 full-time editorial staff, I am the only one who strings for a foreign publication. I've been writing for Newsweek since 1992. None of us strings for the New York Times or the International Herald Tribune.

Agustin is also dishonest. Referring to the Newsbreak special edition on federalism, for which we received a grant from the Swiss Embassy, he mentioned that we carried a whole-page spread on Zurich and Geneva, "complete with a smiling visage of, surprise, Swiss Ambassador Lise Favre." What he deliberately omitted is the fact that, we carried a two-page spread on Australia and another two-page spread on Canada (with a photo of the Canadian ambassador), and the reasons why we did. We featured 11 of the 15 most livable cities, as ranked by the Economist Intelligence Unit, and they happen to be in these federal countries.

Honestly, I don't know what Agustin has against Bonner and his story on Newsbreak ("Magazine challenges Manila taboos," New York Times and the International Herald Tribune, July 24 and 25, respectively). This set off his baseless tirades against us. Could it be that he can't bear "approving" reportage on other members of the Philippine press?

—MARITES DAÑGUILAN VITUG,
editor in chief, Newsbreak,
Amethyst Drive,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

WITH REGARD to the quote cited in the fourth paragraph of the above letter, the original column also mentions PCIJ staffers: "...the majority of the Newsbreak/PCIJ staffers...are themselves correspondents/stringers for the foreign press."—Ed.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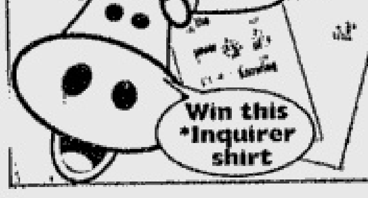

INQBOX Question of the Week

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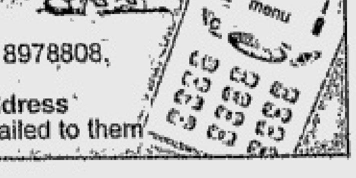

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Settlers fight for historic swampland

By Gil Francis G. Arevalo
Legazpi City

FOR ALMOST 70 years, Julieta Ortal's family and some 800 others have lived in Barangay Victory Village at the heart of Legazpi City. Today, they face a serious challenge to their continued stay in what was once marshland.

The village occupies five hectares of foreshore area, Ortal says. Her claim is supported by the Legazpi City Slumdwellers Federation Inc. (LCSFI), which is composed of 19 organizations of informal settlers in the provincial capital's 17 barangays.

"We wonder why portions of this village, which has been considered foreshore area since time immemorial, have private owners, and based on our research, more than three hectares of this area have already been declared titled lots," said Ortal, 62.

Some parts of Victory are still swampy and based on a relocation survey dated Nov. 5, 1915, the area was bounded by the Tibu River, she added.

Lorna Chavez, acting LCSFI president, also wondered how certain lots within the village had been titled through court decisions as early as 1929.

"If you remove the boulevard, breakwater and even the houses in this place, you'll see that the markers of the controversial titled lots are submerged in water," she said. "So how can they be titled if it's a water area?"

No watchdogs

City planning and development coordinator Joseph Esplana confirmed that based on their research, most parts of the titled lots were indeed part of the foreshore area.

The lots could have been titled as early as World War II, primarily because no agencies monitored any illegal titling transactions then, Esplana said.

He said people found it easy to own titled lands, even if these were foreshore or swamp areas. "All one needed to do was bring papers or documents to Manila to have these lands titled. This was what happened to Victory Village," he said.

City registrar Danilo Lorena gave the INQUIRER copies of the certificates of land titles showing the names of the owners and numbers of the titled lots.

There are three titled lots that the courts, through the Register of Deeds, have lawfully recognized. These are Lot No. 8273 with an area of 19,897 sqm and owned by Estrella Lee, Jacinto Vergara, and Gregorio Imperial since 1973; Lot No. 8274 (11,208 sqm), owned by Remigio Llaguno since 1960 until it was transferred to V and O Co. in 1987; and Lot No. 1123 (4,208 sqm), owned by Pedro Soichi since 1959 until it was transferred to Rosario de Villa in 1973 and then to Esperanza Cayco, owner of Arellano University, in the same year.

JULIETA Ortal, a resident of Victory Village, shows a marker placed by Japanese soldiers during World War II to indicate where they supposedly hid their arms and treasures at Kapuntukan Hill.
NIÑO JESUS Y. ORBETA

The total area of the occupied private lots is 35,536 sqm.

Lorena stressed that the court recognized various transfers of ownership.

Although the lots' actual sizes and locations and the manner they were acquired might be questionable, as claimed by the settlers, he said he could not do anything but to effect the transfers in accordance with law.

The Register of Deeds said most of the landowners were not residents of Bicol but permanently staying in Manila.

Court decision

What surprised the residents was that the lots were originally titled as early as World War II, when Victory Village was submerged in water. Up to the present, it is still swampland.

The Bureau of Lands regional office admitted that it did not have records or documents to show how most areas of Victory Village had been titled through court decisions.

"Even before we assumed office here and even before this agency was established, it was already declared such. Besides, it was not even a legislative decision under our office but rather a judicial decision," said land management officer Rodolfo Arimado.

In a dialogue with the settlers on June 27, Arimado said the titles indicated that these were all reconstituted based on decrees issued on certification by the Land Registration Authority in Quezon City in the early 1960s.

Historical

Victory Village is one of the most significant historical places, not only in Legazpi but also in the entire region. During the Battle of Legazpi between Filipino revolutionaries and Americans on Jan. 23, 1900, the area suffered intense bombardment by the US cruiser "Nashville."

The village became famous during the American amphibious landing on April 1, 1945, when allied forces of local guerrillas and US soldiers fiercely fought the Japanese forces. The Americans named it Victory Village because it was the only place in the region where they remained undefeated.

It was considered a strategic military area. On Kapuntukan Hill (Sleeping Lion Hill), the allied forces could easily monitor any preemptive attacks by the Japanese.

Records and old photos from the Legazpi Museum show that as early as 1901, Victory Village was undeveloped and submerged in water. It was evidently a vast, unoccupied foreshore area.

When the Legazpi port was constructed in the late 1940s, people flocked to the village and stayed there for good.

Fear of eviction

The LCSFI found it very confusing that concerned agencies appeared helpless although they were aware of the real situation and the flaws in the dates of the titles shown to them.

Now, the residents fear being evicted sooner or later.

They have two options, according to Arimado: convince the court and the private landowners that the village is foreshore area and thus cannot be acquired through titles but can only be leased, or negotiate to buy the property.

If they insist on staying, the Office of the Solicitor General will investigate the case and evaluate all records to decide their fate. If they agree to negotiate, everything will depend on their coordination with the city government and the generosity of the landowners.

Ortal said the residents were willing to purchase the property if the price is affordable.

But for now, they are determined to fight it out, she said.

Bicol marine sanctuary's top guard braves threats

By Gil Francis Arevalo
Tabaco City

HE HAS gotten used to confronting threats, harassment and danger from illegal fishermen, especially those involved in blast and cyanide fishing.

Nestor Benito, chair of the San Miguel Island Marine Fishery Reserve (SMIMFR) management council, strictly monitors activities in Bicol's only marine reef with a one-square-kilometer sanctuary where fishing is not allowed. He has 10 Bantay Dagat (sea guard) volunteers.

"I'm ready to die for the sake of protecting this sanctuary. For more than a decade as head of the council, I've seen and experienced all the beauty and copious blessings that it can give not only to this island but also to the local folk as well," Benito said, adding:

"Our sacrifices have really paid well and no one, except for the few of us, believed that we would come this far."

Since the early '80s, when he and his family decided to permanently stay in Barangay Sagurong, San Miguel Island, it has been Benito's dream to put up a well-managed coastal ecological habitat in the area. San Miguel is a 30-minute cruise from Tabaco City proper, 26 km from Albay's capital city of Legazpi.

His wish came true in 1994. Together with Prof. Victor Soliman, head of the research team of Bicol University's Tabaco campus, and engineer Juan Berces, coordinator of the City Planning and Development Council, Benito earnestly worked to establish the first marine fishery reserve in the region, with the local community serving as co-manager.

The SMIMFR covers 2.25 sq km of marine protected area in the Lagonoy Gulf.

Its management council is composed of researchers, divers and a few volunteers who study and monitor the place, Benito said.

The city government extends about P500,000 yearly in financial assistance to the SMIMFR, as well as in providing supplemental source of livelihood for fishers.

Risky

Being part of the fishery reserve's council and Bantay Dagat program has never been easy, Benito learned. Earning only P350 a month for a 24/7 monitoring job, he faces various forms of harassment and danger every day. He has to sacrifice even his time with his family, and there were moments when he wanted to quit the council for a peaceful life and to concentrate on taking care of his loved ones.

"I know that through the years I have already embraced all this risky commitment for the future of this island," he said. "Within that span of years, of course, I have always nourished the fear that because of my being persistent to apprehend the culprits, my family will also be at risk."

NESTOR Benito, chair of the San Miguel Island Marine Fishery Reserve, leads 10 Bantay Dagat volunteers in guarding the sanctuary off Tabaco City in Albay.
ANTONIO CABAIS/CONTRIBUTOR

"Just imagine dealing with illegal fishermen who have guns and dynamites! But thank God, He knows that I need Him most of the time," he said.

The council has apprehended many illegal fishermen from other provinces or even from the island towns of Albay. With the support of the local police, most of the culprits have been punished and imprisoned.

Benito said that since the story about the SMIMFR came out in the INQUIRER in August 2004, the incidence of illegal fishing has been reduced.

"My family is proud of my work; the support I get from the local government, a Peace Corps volunteer from the US, and the fisherfolk in this barangay is overwhelming. But most of all, I'm proud that we have already gained the respect of both the people here and the illegal fishermen," he said.

Chosen one

Benito grew up not in San Miguel Island, but in Legazpi. When he married Leticia, he settled on the island for good. Now 52, with seven children, he is the only one among seven siblings who has lived in San Miguel since the 1980s. His brothers and sisters stay in Manila, Legazpi and Saudi Arabia.

Benito never went to college and was once considered by his peers and relatives as the "black sheep of the family." He was never serious about schooling but has a passion for caring for the environment—the reason he loves to travel and observe lifestyles in the rural areas in Albay.

In 1970, he worked as maintenance operator for Lealda Electric Co., now the Albay Electric Cooperative. It was the only type of work he could have since he is only a high school graduate, he said.

But from the time he took the most risky role in the council, everyone knew that he is the chosen one for the job.

Benito said that the moment he stepped on the shores of San Miguel, all he could think of was how to preserve and protect it. He could not explain that urge but all he knew is that it's his destiny to guard the island.

"I don't think that it would come this far if Toy Benito was not the head of the SMIMFR council. He has the qualities of being in touch with nature," said Berces, the city planning and development coordinator.

Environmentalists and even volunteers from the US Peace Corps have been surprised by what the marine fishery guardian has accomplished despite the precarious situation he faces daily.

Rewarding

Benito first thought that pursuing the project would just be a case of "*ningas-kogon*" (short-lived interest) on the part of the city government. It took them several years before their efforts reaped success.

Local fisherfolk had been suffering from dwindling fish catch due to the massive destruction of several coral reefs of the island due to rampant blast and cyanide fishing.

Most of the residents had also opposed the SMIMFR project, thinking that they would be restricted forever from fishing in the marine sanctuary.

But since Benito was elected as head of the management council and a campaign was waged against illegal fishing, fish catch has increased three to five times in two years. The islanders noted the return of siganids, caesonids, groupers, lobsters, marlins, yellow fins, mackerels, scads, stingrays, spinefoot fish and other species.

Astoundingly, residents have witnessed the fast recovery of good coral cover, which once again became suitable for scuba diving and viewing of marine fauna and flora.

In 2002, the SMIMFR was adjudged second best-managed reef by Philreefs. According to a recent assessment of Bicol University researchers, the reef offers rich fish diversity, vast expanse of corals, seagrass and seaweed beds, and invigorating oceanographic features.

Legacy

The management council is now training residents in scuba diving and ceaselessly monitoring the sanctuary. Benito is coordinating with Corey Ridings, a marine biologist and Peace Corps volunteer from Seattle, who is training the residents.

Last month, four members of Bantay Dagat started taking lessons on basic scuba diving as part of a three-day course with an initial budget of P40,000.

"I just hope that in the soonest possible time, the local government will provide modern gadgets and a floating guard house, and that we can have an agreement with the Bicol University Tabaco Campus to make available its scuba diving gadgets for free to our Bantay Dagat volunteers," Benito said.

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Marine park shut to pave way for probe

By Christine Gaylican

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources has closed for an indefinite period the Ocean Adventure in Subic Bay Freeport Zone until its officials comply with the DENR's requirements, including an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC).

A cease and desist order issued by the DENR's Environment and Management Bureau said the Ocean Adventure, managed by the Subic Bay Marine Exploratorium Inc. (SBME), would have to suspend its operations as the DENR reviews allegations that the park violated laws against maltreatment and abuse of whales.

"We need to close it down to review their operations because of the death of some whales. Technically and legally the Ocean Adventure management did not secure an ECC from us," Defensor said in another interview with reporters.

He said the agency deemed it necessary to uphold the decision issued recently by the Court of Appeals in May 2004 that the management of the Ocean Adventure, led by the SBME, should have first secured an ECC from the DENR before operating the park.

Defensor added that the DENR's Environment Management Bureau will lead the investigating team that would study the operations of the SBME and determine if it was complying with international standards on marine parks.

"We would want to know if the claims of non-government groups are true and if the marine animals of the park are properly cared for and if their current environment is suitable to them," he said.

Ocean Adventure offers "swim with the whales" and dolphin shows, usually to groups of excursionists from Metro Manila. In a separate statement, the SBME management said they welcome the DENR's move and will now work on securing an ECC from the DENR.

"We are already talking to the DENR and we welcome the move of Secretary Mike Defensor that will complete the resolution of the issue and clear the way for us to get a separate ECC from the DENR, in compliance with the earlier ruling of the Court of Appeals," said Gregorio Magdaraog, Ocean Adventure vice president for corporate affairs, in a statement.

The Earth Island Institute-Philippines (EII) and the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) sought the closure of the marine park in Subic Bay and called on environment and health officials to save the two false killer whales (*Pseudorca crassidens*) still in captivity in the park.

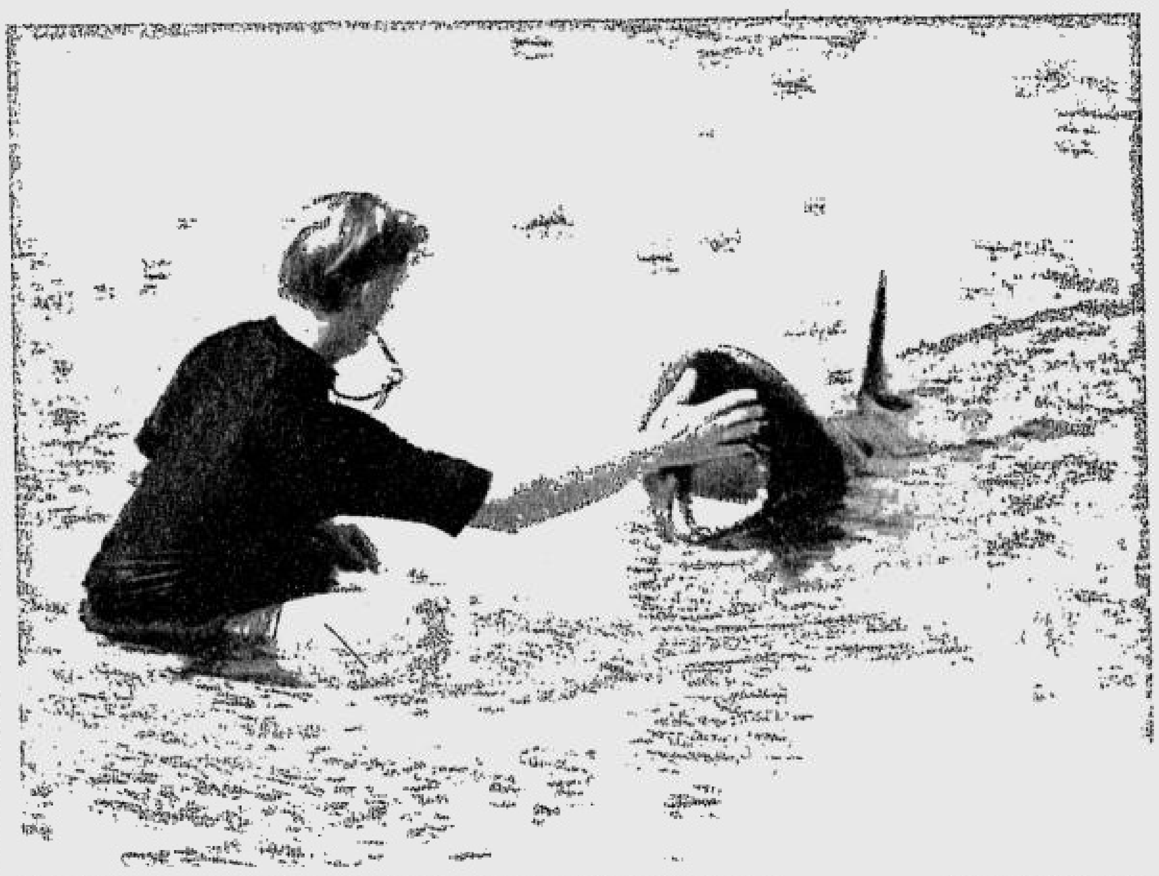
The whales and some sea lions are used in amusement shows at the park.

The groups issued the call following the death of a female false killer whale in the park on July 8.

The EII and the PAWS filed criminal charges against the SBME board, composed of Americans Timothy Desmond, John Corcoran and Gail Laule, in 2001 for violation of Republic Act No. 8485, or the Animal Welfare Act, and Presidential Decree No. 1586, which mandates the Environmental Impact Statement System.

The EII and PAWS said US military forces that used Subic as a naval base for decades have not done anything to remove toxic biochemical, possibly nuclear, wastes dumped into Subic Naval Base.

They said the SBMA also has no proper sewerage system and wastes flow directly into the bay.



ONE of the shows featured in Ocean Adventure, swim with the whales. BETOY JOHNSON/PDI PHOTO

ROUNDUP

Korean survives ambush

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Barely three days after a Japanese tourist was shot dead in Sto. Tomas, Batangas, a Korean national survived an ambush in Tuy, Batangas just before midnight Monday. Police said Sun Yeol Park, 42, a native of Chan Gong Kwansan, South Korea, was driving his motorcycle along a dimly-lit road in Barangay Malibu when an unidentified suspect suddenly appeared from the road side and shot him. Sun suffered a bullet wound in the right knee and was rushed to the Madonna General Hospital in Balayan town. The suspect immediately fled on foot. Police said the victim had been declared out of danger. He said they have yet to identify the motive for the shooting. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Fare hike in Naga

NAGA CITY—Commuters here were told to brace for a P1-increase in fare in tricycles, known here as trimobiles, after the proposed hike was approved at the city council's committee on public utility hearing. Committee chair Jose Grageda said last Wednesday that the committee members reached a consensus to grant the increase from P5 to P6. Grageda said the P1-hike in trimobile fare would be submitted on Monday in the regular session of the council as a proposed ordinance. With the imminent increase in trimobile's fare, the passengers in the towns around Naga City, like Magarao and Canaman, face a second whammy that adds up to at least P3.50 for a two-way fare inside the city limits in a month's period after the increase in jeepney fare from P5.50 to P7.50. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Hike in ferry service

P15.00
KUNG PUEDE LANG BANG LANGUYIN E...!

OZAMIZ CITY—The unabated rise in oil prices has driven a 25-percent increase in the passenger fare of a ferry service operating between Misamis Occidental and Lanao del Norte provinces. In a public announcement, the Daima Shipping Co. said it would raise passenger fare from P12 to P15 beginning Aug. 1 to compensate for the continued rise in bunker fuel prices, which is increasing their operating costs. This fare increase is the second in less than two years. Over a year ago, the company hiked fare from P10 to P12 for a similar reason. The ferry service is the principal means of crossing the narrow Panguil Bay that separates the two provinces. Some 2,000 vehicles and close to 5,000 passengers cross the bay everyday.

Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Councilor stabbed dead

MAASIN CITY—A municipal councilor was ambushed and killed on July 25 by two unidentified assailants in Bontoc town, Southern Leyte. Municipal Councilor Leoncio Uy Jr. of Sogod later died at the provincial hospital due to multiple stabs in different parts of the body. Police said Uy was driving a motorcycle with his wife, Conchita, riding in the back at about 9:30 p.m. on Monday. Two suspects, one of them wearing a bonnet, suddenly grabbed Uy from the motorcycle and repeatedly stabbed him when the couple reached a secluded highway in Barangay Talisay, Bontoc.

Jani Arnaiz, PDI Visayas Bureau

2 men found dead

CAMP GEN. ALEJO SANTOS, Bulacan—Two men were found dead in separate areas in Bulacan last week. Supt. Adriano Enong, police chief of Paombong town, said residents of Barangay Hangga in Hagonoy town found the body of Renato Mendoza, 52, floating in a river in the village on July 28. Enong said Mendoza was stabbed and hacked by his companions during a drinking spree at a fish pond in Paombong. In another incident, a group of scavengers found the body of Arnold Sevilla, 29, in a pile of garbage near a fish pond in Barangay Sto. Niño, Paombong on July 29. Sevilla's body had stab and hack wounds. Police arrested Rufino Juliano, 23, who, they said, attacked Sevilla after the latter failed to settle an P800 debt. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Push for parliament urged

DAVAO CITY—House Majority Floorleader Prospero Nograles asked governors and mayors of local government units to immediately pass local resolutions to support a federal parliament system of government to send a strong signal to senators that local government units mean business. "Senators are known to change their minds when public pulse dictates strong lobby from the local government units, mayors, governors and others," he said in a statement. He said they would need to convince the senators that they have to listen to the clamor of the people.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Palawan opposition stalls transfer to W. Visayas

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The turnover of Palawan and Puerto Princesa City from Southern Tagalog's Region 4-B to Western Visayas faces delay amid opposition from the Palawan provincial board and questions on the legality of the transfer.

Rafael Coscolluela, presidential adviser for Western Visayas, said "it might be reasonable to defer the transfer" in the wake of the objections of Palawan officials.

Also, he said, there was no urgent need for the transfer in view of the current political crisis in the country.

The Department of Interior and Local Government earlier announced that turnover rites will be held on Aug. 18 at the Mambucal Resort in Murcia town, Negros Occidental.

Coscolluela said he would arrange a dialogue between President Macapagal-Arroyo and Palawan officials to discuss the latter's opposition to the transfer.

TEKA, TEKA MUNA!
AWAN

"The President will consider what is good for the provinces concerned," said Coscolluela.

The Palawan provincial board unanimously passed a resolution on July 26, "expressing vehement opposition" to Executive Order 429 issued by Ms Arroyo in May transferring Palawan and Puerto Princesa City to Western Visayas.

The board said Ms Arroyo "violated the constitutional right of Palaweños to public consultation ..." because EO 429 was issued without consultation with officials and residents of the province.

The board also passed a separate resolution supporting House Bill 3328 authored by Oriental Mindoro Rep. Alfonso Umali Jr. that calls for the establishment of a "Southwestern Tagalog Region," including Palawan and its capital Puerto Princesa City.

Vice Gov. David Ponce de Leon, in a telephone interview yesterday, said he has asked the provincial board to solicit resolutions from town councils on their positions on the issue.

He said many Palaweños expressed fears that the transfer would make transactions with government offices difficult because there is no direct transportation between Palawan and Iloilo, the regional center of Western Visayas.

He said the transfer could also raise the electric rates in the province by P1.50 per kilowatt-hour because the electric cooperative currently providing power to Palaweños would be under the Visayas grid, which charges higher than the Luzon grid.

Turtles trapped in fish pens released in Puerto

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Six green and two Hawksbill turtles that were separately trapped in fish pens in two villages here were released back to the sea on Monday morning.

Authorities placed tags on the turtles before releasing them. All the turtles that have been tagged and released have not returned since.

Four green and two Hawksbill turtles were trapped in the fish pen of Antonio Macasaet Jr., a resident of Barangay Inagawan, some 52 km from the city proper, while two other green turtles were also ensnared in the fish pen of barangay councilman Danilo Gacillano of Barangay San Jose.

The green turtles weighed 15 kilos each while each Hawksbill turtles weighed 50 kilos.

This was not the first time that turtles were trapped in Macasaet's fish pen. Last month alone, five green turtles were trapped in his pen and last year, there were nine.

Macasaet said he expected more turtles to be trapped in the coming months. "Last year, it was until the month of October that there were turtles getting trapped," he said.

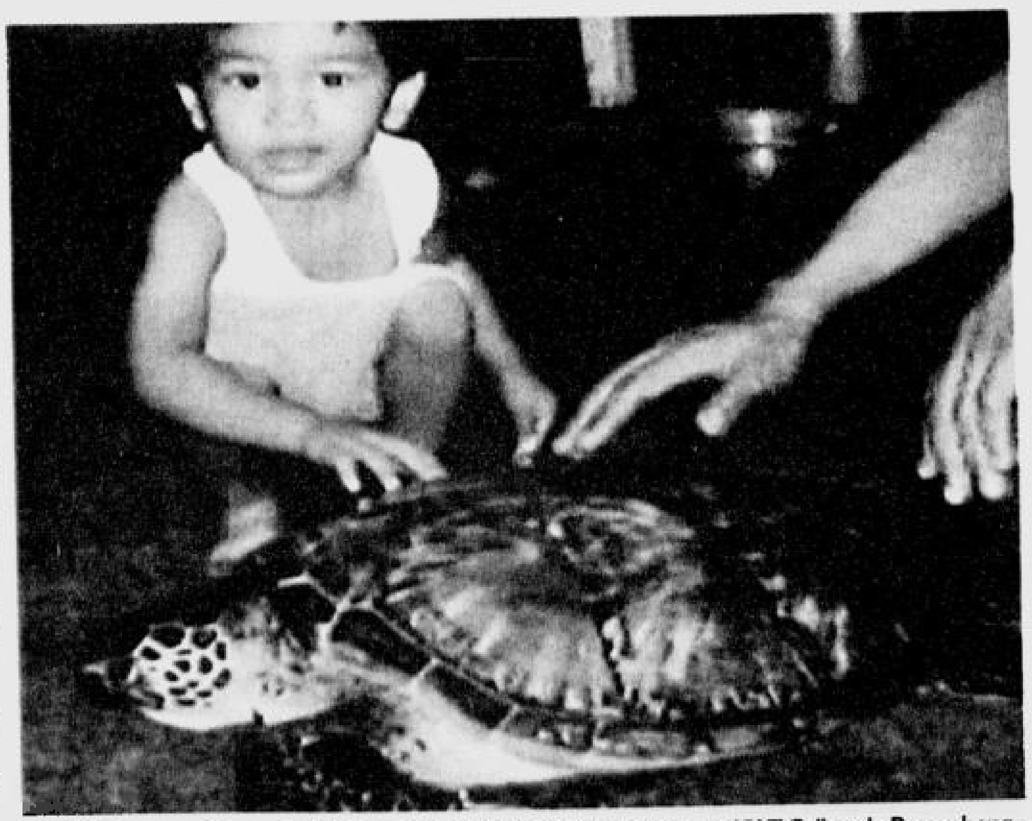
One of the reasons that turtles keep coming, he said, is that the area is a migratory path for marine habitats.

In Nueva Vizcaya, a school official bought a sea turtle from a vendor in Solano town to save the animal from harm.

Purisimo Tiam, president of the Programming Language Technique College in Bayombong town, said he bought the turtle in Barangay Bascaran, Solano for P1,500, half of its original price of P3,000.

He said the vendor told him the turtle was caught off Baler, Aurora. Tiam said he fed and kept the turtle in their family's swimming pool before he turned it over to environment officials on Tuesday.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources officials here said the turtle would be released on the shores of Aparri, Cagayan later. *Geraldford Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



A CHILD poses with a sea turtle bought by Purisimo Tiam, president of PLT College in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya who later turned over the turtle to the DENR. BEN MOSES EBREO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Brains of journalist's slay free to roam

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The alleged masterminds in the March 24 murder of journalist Marlene Esperat are free to move around anew after a local court in Tacurong City recalled the arrest warrants issued against them.

Judge Francis Palmones of the Regional Trial Court Branch 20 recalled on July 25 the arrest warrants against Osmeña Montañer and Estrella Sabay after the Department of Justice granted the suspects' petition for review of the charges against them.

Montañer, finance officer, and Sabay, regional accountant, of the Department of Agriculture (DA) in Region 12 claimed the testimony of suspect, former Army sergeant Rowie Barua, could not be used against them because he did not plead guilty.

Nena Santos, private counsel for the victim's family, blamed the DOJ for muddling and bungling the Esperat case.

"Unseen hands were trying to whitewash the case," Santos said.

The two suspected masterminds have reportedly started reporting to their office after the court recalled the warrants of arrest.

"So they were just around. The police did not arrest them. With what is happening, I'm afraid the killing of journalists would continue," Santos said.

As this developed, Supt. Amil Bangsa Aming, jail warden of the General Santos City Jail in Lanton, Apopong Village here, told reporters that he received reports about an alleged plot to kill suspects Jerry Cabayag, Estanislao Bismanos and Randy Grecia.

Cabayag, the self-confessed gunman, as well as Bismanos and Grecia, who served as lookouts, pleaded guilty to the crime during the hearing of the case before Palmones' sala.

Cabayag, during an interview, said they were aware of the plan to kill them and that they already requested the DOJ to expedite their transfer to another facility.

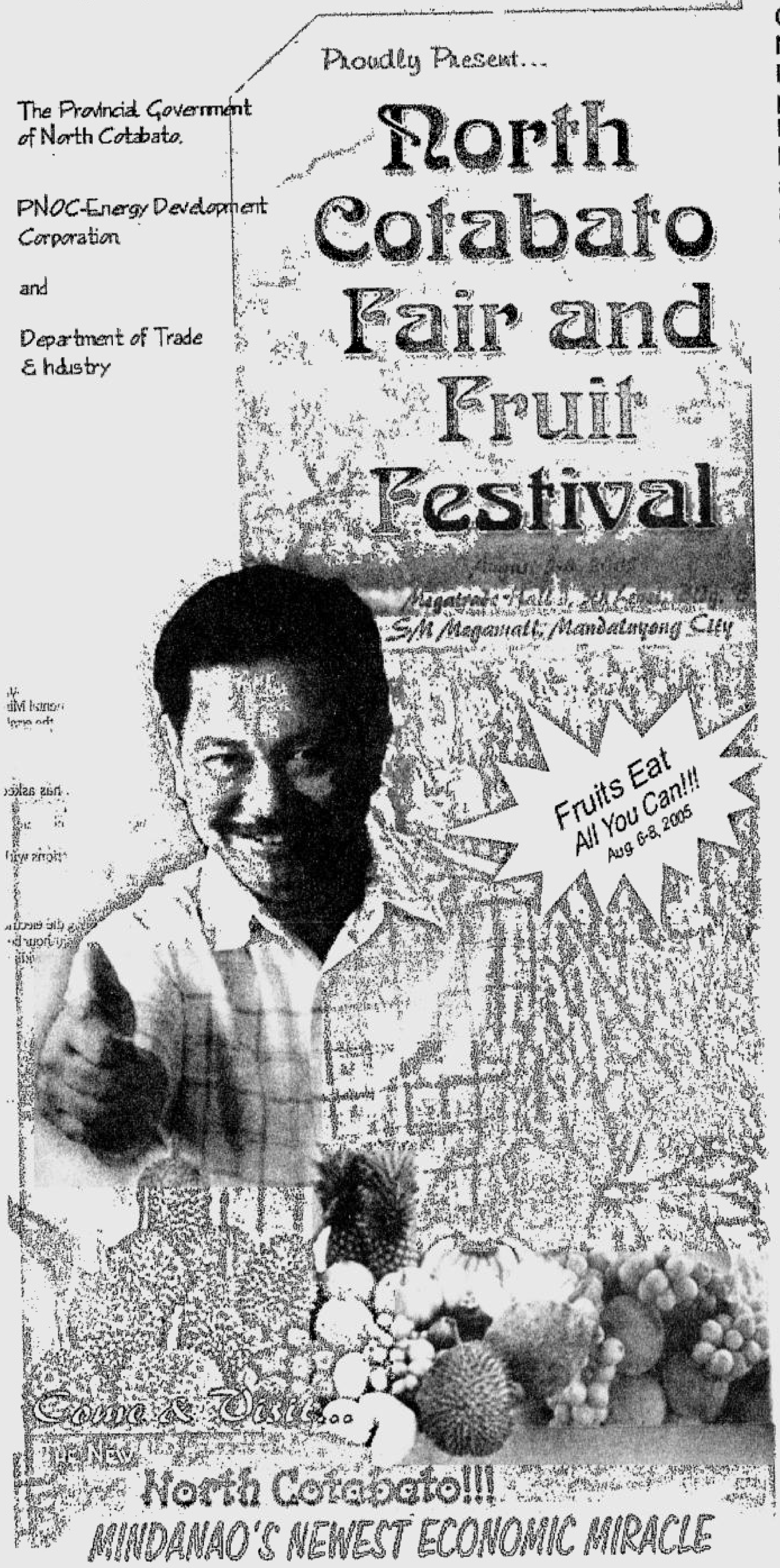
Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Pres. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to open North Cotabato Fair & Fruit Festival

PNOC
The Energy Company

PROVINCE OF COTABATO OFFICIAL SEAL

dti
TRADE & INDUSTRY


The Provincial Government of North Cotabato,
PNOC-Energy Development Corporation
and
Department of Trade & Industry
Proudly Present...
North Cotabato Fair and Fruit Festival
S/M Megamall, Mandaluyong City
Fruits Eat All You Can!!!
Aug 6-8, 2005
Come & Visit...
the New
North Cotabato!!!
MINDANAO'S NEWEST ECONOMIC MIRACLE

Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, will open the North Cotabato Fair and Fruit Festival at the SM Megamall Megatrade Hall 3 in Mandaluyong City August 5.

Organized by the Provincial Government of North Cotabato through the Cotabato Provincial Investment Promotion Center (CPIPC) and co-presented by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and PNOC-EDC, the Fair will highlight the bountiful harvest of tropical fruits and highland vegetables, and will include special activities like an "Eat-All-You-Can" for all fruits displayed.

The Fair, which will run until August 8, also showcases North Cotabato's various tourism and investment potentials, flourishing business enterprises, government and non-government organization innovations and initiatives that have brought changes in the lives of North Cotabateños are also included.

In the last six years, North Cotabato has graduated from being among the ten poorest provinces in the country to become Region XII's favorite investment area.

The province registered a total of P1 billion worth of investments in 2004, ranking second (2nd) only to General Santos City. This meant a 113% leap in investments, the biggest in the region as of February 2005 according to DTI-12.

CPIPC has recorded total investments made in North Cotabato from 2000 to 2004 at P901 million, generating 68,595 new jobs, and making it the leading province in job generation in the region, according to DOLE-12.

OPENING PROGRAM

North Cotabato Fair and Fruit Festival 2005

August 5, 2005; 1:00 pm
Megatrade Hall 3, 5th Level, Bldg. B
SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City

CEREMONIAL RIBBON CUTTING by Her Excellency Gloria Macapacal Arroyo, President of the Philippines, assisted by Department Secretaries, Secretary Dureza and Gov. Piñol.

SHORT TOUR of the Exhibits

Invocation

National Anthem

Welcome Remarks & Overview of the Fair... **HON. EMMANUEL F. PIÑOL**
Governor, Province of Cotabato

Intermission .... **Kapagayan Dance Troupe**

Introduction of the Guest Speaker .... **HON. JESUS G. DUREZA**
Presidential Assistant for Mindanao

Message of the Guest Speaker .... **HON. DOMINGO PANGANIBAN**
Secretary, Dept. of Agriculture

Also brought to you by:

Landbank of the Philippines
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Dole Stanfilco
Department of Agriculture
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Department of Land Reform

Zuce: GMA saw payoffs at her La Vista home

From page A1

ing on the lower level of her house, Zuce said Lilia "Baby" Pineda, wife of notorious "jueteng" lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda, gave the envelopes to one of the directors for distribution to the participants.

"It's impossible that she did not see it because there was even a slight commotion in front and she was talking to Mrs. Pineda," Zuce said at the resumption of the Senate jueteng inquiry.

"She was still around," Zuce told to Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. who said it did not matter much whether she witnessed the distribution because it happened in her house over dinner she hosted for the election officers.

A constitutional expert says if Zuce's statement were true the meeting between Ms Arroyo and the poll officials in her house four months before the balloting was improper. The expert says whether it constitutes an impeachable offense can be established during a trial. Whether the money handed out is a bribe and whether Pineda acted in the President's behalf are questions that have to be proven.

Zuce surfaced as Ms Arroyo appeared to be weathering the worst political crisis of her 4-year-old presidency. It was triggered two months ago by disclosures implicating her family to jueteng payoffs and revelations of a wiretapped telephone conversation which the opposition said showed Ms Arroyo cheated in the elections.

Ms Arroyo has denied manipulating the vote. She also has dismissed allegations she bribed election officials in her house but has not addressed the specific charge of her hosting the dinner for the election officials.

In response to a question by Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, Zuce said he had no personal knowledge of whether Ms Arroyo directed Pineda to distribute money to the participants.

New personalities

Zuce also named two new personalities who were supposedly present in the La Vista dinner and who allegedly received the same envelopes—Senior Supt. Rodolfo "Boogie" Mendoza of the Philippine National Police and Andy Gonzales, whom he identified as a brother of National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales.

Mendoza told the INQUIRER he had never been to La Vista.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson asked the Senate to summon Mendoza to the hearing.

Lacson also requested that ex-Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy Jr. be likewise issued a subpoena. Zuce said Dy was present in the La Vista gathering.

GMA TV said last night that Frank Chavez, a former solicitor general and opposition lawyer, had reported that Dy had agreed to appear before the Senate on Aug. 10.

Zuce, accompanied by his lawyer, Liwayway Vinzons-Chato, also confirmed the wiretapped conversations between Ms Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, an uncle.

Zuce said Garcillano directed "special operations" mounted by Malacañang to enlist the support of election officials for Ms Arroyo's presidential candidacy.

Wiretapped calls

He said Garcillano was under the care of then presidential political liaison officer Jose Ma. Rufino, his boss from July 2001 to July 2004.

In his affidavit, Zuce said "all the conversations really took place because Commissioner Garcillano told me about them." Zuce said that he was with Garcillano when Ms Arroyo made some of the calls.

Under questioning by Sen. Jamby Madrigal, Zuce said he could overhear Garcillano say "ma'am, yes ma'am." After the conversation, Zuce said Garcillano would tell him that it was Ms Arroyo at the other end of the line.

Lacson said Zuce provided the first corroboration of the "Hello Garci" tapes. Zuce validated a portion of the tapes when he confirmed he was the "Louie" that a woman caller told Garcillano about.

Zuce also said he was forced to come out for fear of his life because he learned that former chief of the Philippine National Police and now Transportation Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane was looking for him.

Ebdane has Garcillano?

"One office mate called me to say that (Ebdane was) looking for me. Usec (Undersecretary Raymundo) Roquero told him I have resigned," he said, referring to the head of the Political Coalition Affairs Office where he transferred after working under Rufino.

Zuce said Ebdane wanted to meet with him and Roquero's office wanted to facilitate the meeting.

Asked by Sen. Ramon Revilla why he was afraid of Ebdane, Zuce said: "Because what I know is they are the ones who have custody of my uncle."

Lapid defends Pineda

There were no fireworks in the testimony of Zuce, massive in an old rose polo shirt and brown pants, who mainly repeated what he has stated in his affidavit and in a news conference earlier.

Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid, on the other hand, could have caused some red faces in Malacañang when he valiantly tried to defend Lilia "Baby" Pineda.

Lapid, chair of the Senate games committee which is conducting a joint hearing with Sen. Manuel Villar's public order committee, grilled Zuce on whether he saw Baby Pineda giving Garcillano P12 million for the special project, or the P30,000 per Comelec officer handed out in the house of Ms Arroyo.

Who gave the money?

Zuce had said that one time, Garcillano asked him to go to his condominium unit near the Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard and showed him a cabinet full of P1,000 bills wrapped in plastic. Garcillano allegedly told Zuce the P12 million was not enough because they needed P25 million to P37 million to finance the operation.

"You've been mentioning the Pinedas, Jun Dy but you have no proof. What if the money was just given to Baby (Lilia) Pineda? What if it came from Madam (Ms Arroyo)?" Lapid, a friend of both the Arroyos and the Pinedas, said, eliciting disbelieving murmurs from the audience.

Zuce said Garcillano told him the P12 million came from Pineda while the P30,000 distributed to each of the election officers came from Lilia Pineda's bag.

Lacson interrupted to point out Lapid's faux pas.

"Isn't it more serious if the money came from Madam?" Lacson said, to which Lapid hurriedly replied that the money could have come from the party (Lakas-CMD).

Lapid went out of the room laughing but visibly blushing.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago highlighted Zuce's bad side, including how he piled up debts and did not report for work regularly. She elicited from Zuce that he has no degree apart from an unfinished course in aircraft maintenance and thus "one of the very lucky few" who got a job in Malacañang and had come to the President's house.

Not a paid witness

"All people incur debts but it does not mean that if you have debts you cannot tell the truth," Zuce said: He said he would pay his P500,000 debts. He also denied Ms Arroyo's statement that he was a paid witness.

Zuce also said he was joined in his operations by a Butch Pakinggan, who turned out to be a consultant to several politicians, including Sen. Serge Osmeña.

Osmeña said Pakinggan was his consultant on Muslim, energy, agricultural issues in Mindanao and "assists in fact-finding and liaison with local government officials."

Osmeña said he met Pakinggan in the 1998 campaign and that he knew the latter worked with Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo in his past campaigns.

"He has been helpful when I need information on Mindanao," he said but said he did not know about his involvement with Zuce or his operations.

Zuce said two of the four Pajeros funded by Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corp. went to Danny Pobe, provincial election supervisor for Agusan del Norte and Rey Samalipao, provincial election supervisor in Lanao del Sur.

Corroborative testimony

The Senate jueteng inquiry will continue after Archbishop Oscar Cruz said he has two more witnesses to present.

Cruz said one of the witnesses would corroborate Zuce's testimony and show how jueteng money was used in the presidential election.

Also yesterday, Salud Aliganga, Comelec director in Central Visayas, said she was willing to undergo a lie detector test to prove that she was not among those who received money in Ms Arroyo's house.

"I am willing to undergo that lie test. What would I lie about?" she said.

Victor Gaborne, Comelec director for Western Visayas, said Comelec officials were being subjected to trial by publicity before being given a chance to prove their innocence.

"This is too much. It is causing demoralization," lamented Daisy Real, poll supervisor in Negros Occidental.

Helen Aguila-Flores, Comelec director for Western Mindanao, said she was offered a P50-million bribe by a Garcillano security aide to rig the election for Ms Arroyo and Tetuan mayoralty candidate Lepeng Wee but she rejected it. Said Wee: "Only crazy candidates would bribe an election official for P50 million." *With reports from Fe Zamora, Jhunnex Napallacan and Carla P. Gomez of PDI Visayas Bureau and Rolly A. San Juan and Julie S. Alipala of PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Zuce's 'victim' prefers murderers to liars

From page A1

Masbate Mayor Cherry "Nonong" Abapo appeared at the resumption of the Senate "jueteng" hearing yesterday to confront Zuce whom he accused of conning him of P1.5 million four years ago.

Later in the hearing, Abapo was questioned by Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. on the multiple murder charges filed against him for his involvement in a grenade-throwing incident in Masbate in 1999 that left three dead.

When asked by Pimentel if he, as a "character witness," was better than a "liar," he curtly said: "I prefer to be seated next to a murderer than a liar."

He said his murder case had been dismissed in 2004.

Without trying to be comical, Abapo provided the lighter side of an otherwise serious Senate inquiry into jueteng when he recounted his dealings with a "mammoth liar."

He was not on the list of resource persons, but Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said he had written the Senate investigating committees that he be authorized to testify against Zuce.

'I fell off my seat'

"Last Monday, I was surprised when the image of a giant flashed on the TV. A giant not only in size but in peddling lies," Abapo said in his opening remarks, eliciting laughter.

"Truth to tell, I nearly fell off my seat when I saw Michaelangelo Zuce, whom I know as Louie Zuce, hurling all kinds of allegations against government officials."

The pudgy Zuce surfaced Monday and claimed in a press briefing that he witnessed Lilia "Baby" Pineda pay off election officials at President Macapagal-Arroyo's La Vista home in Quezon City in January 2004.

The 29-year-old Abapo alleged that he paid Zuce some P1.5 million in several tranches in 2001 after the latter promised to fix the electoral protest he lodged with the Commission on Elections after he lost in the mayoral elections.

But Zuce, a former presidential liaison officer for political affairs, failed to make good on his promise and refund him, he rued.

'Hoodwinked'

"I'm a victim of this Zuce, a naïve politician from the province hoodwinked by a mammoth liar and a mulcter," Abapo, clad in a checkered polo shirt, said, drawing more chuckles from the senators and the spectators.

"Now this Zuce not only fooled a local politician, he's trying to put one over the Filipino nation," he added.

He looked meek

Throughout his accuser's opening remarks, Zuce was grinning and at one point, sat sideways to face him. He later admitted that Abapo deposited some P250,000 into his account with a go-signal from his boss, Jose "Joey" Rufino.

To the amusement of the spectators, Abapo admitted he fell for the meek, sweet-talking ways of Zuce.

"I got angry with myself ... why I allowed myself to be deceived by this guy Zuce. He was a sweet-talker. He looked meek ... Even now, I would like to pinch him in the face," he said, leaving the audience in stitches.

By his account, Abapo first met Zuce during the City Mayors' League convention in June 2001 at the Sheraton Hotel, and met him again by chance at the parking lot of the Commission on Elections' main office in Manila a month later.

During the second meeting, Zuce offered to help him in his protest case, saying he had been tasked by Malacañang to handle such cases involving candidates of the ruling Lakas-CMD. Abapo, a member of the party, lost by 98 votes.

A week later, Zuce arranged a dinner with him at the Westin Philippine Plaza hotel in Pasay City, where he asked if he had a P6-million "budget" for the fixing of his protest case at the Comelec.

Heavy eater

"I always paid for everything. This Zuce is a heavy eater," he said when asked by Senator Santiago who paid for the dinner, drawing laughter.

Believing that he won the elections fair and square, Abapo said he agreed to give Zuce an initial P1.5 million, with the balance to be paid after the elections body issued a ruling in his favor.

"I don't know what he was going to do with the money," he said when asked by Sen. Ramon Revilla Jr. what was the money for, eliciting laughter and murmurs of disbelief from the audience.

Abapo said he handed Zuce P150,000 at the Manila Midtown; then P250,000 at the Edsa Shangri-La hotel, and P50,000 at the Manila Hotel, while his sister turned over an additional P800,000 in several tranches to Zuce in different places.

After some time, he confronted Zuce about the delays in the resolution of the case but the latter kept issuing alibis. He became "suspicious" and decided to deposit the remaining balance of P250,000 in Zuce's own account.

Zuce confirmed that Abapo deposited some P250,000 in his account, saying this had the go-signal of Rufino and that the amount was used to pay off a lawyer. He, however, dared Abapo to prove his other claims on the other supposed payments.

"He should prove his charges," he said.

Only child of painter is 'good pa, jealous lover'

From page A1

enue, Manila, the friend said.

They had been seeing each other almost every day at the school promises until Louie's name cropped up in the "Hello Garci" tape sometime in June, he added. Since then, Heidi's trip to the school has become irregular.

"While waiting for the kids, we talk about our families, our husbands, our children," another friend said. "*Usapang nanay* (We talk about mothering)."

The Zuces have three children—the first two are enrolled at the PCU and the youngest in another school in Malate, Manila.

Louie and Heidi are both from Mindanao. He's Catholic; she's Protestant. He's a burly 30-year-old man. She is a tall, pretty *morena* in her late 20s.

Hometown

The mayor of Zuce's hometown of Malitbog in Bukidnon, 36 km from Cagayan de Oro City, said he first met Louie when some prisoners tried to escape from the municipal jail in the late 1980s. Louie, then a curious bystander, was hit by a stray bullet when guards fired at a prisoner, he said.

Mayor Osmundo de la Rosa said he again met Louie in a gathering sponsored by the National Youth Commission in Cagayan de Oro City in 1998. This time, Louie was known as someone who rubbed elbows with those in power.

"I asked him if he could help our town, and he said he would try to seek help from congressmen and senators," De la Rosa said.

"That was the last time I heard of him," he added.

Higaonon tribe

The mayor described the Zuces as "just simple and ordinary" family. Louie is the only child of Florante and Carmen Zuce. His father worked as an artist painting landscapes. His mother worked for former Malitbog Mayor Francisco Emata in the early 1980s.

His grandmother, Azucena Kilem-Zuce, belonged to the Higaonon tribe in Malitbog.

Reynaldo Ragandang, the Zuces' neighbor, told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview that Louie left Malitbog and studied in one of the high schools in Cagayan de Oro after his parents migrated to Manila in the late 1980s.

"I heard he studied in Manila when he was in college. Their house here is very dilapidated and is being used as a tribal office of his uncle Remegio Zuce," Ragandang said.

Earlier reports said Louie graduated from the Liceo de Cagayan University. A check with the school records showed otherwise.

At the Senate hearing yesterday *(Story on Page A1)*, Zuce said he only finished a course in aircraft maintenance.

Enjoying

Heidi would say many things about her husband, the friend said, like "he's a jealous lover." Or that he sometimes suspected Heidi of seeing another guy. They would fight over this and that. But in all, she said good things about him, he added.

"She would tell us they were billeted in this and that hotel, eating in this and that restaurant while campaigning in faraway provinces. She would tell us that she was enjoying it all," he said.

Security problem

The last time friends saw Heidi, they said, was in mid-June. That was when Heidi became conscious of her family's security, they added.

"My husband is with [Public Works Secretary Hermogenes] Ebdane's group now. And they have been asking him some questions. I think they got all those mentioned in the tape," a friend quoted Heidi as saying.

Heidi would tell friends later that Louie came home after two weeks and that he had been debriefed and told by government agents to keep quiet about what he allegedly knew about the May 2004 elections.

A government official reportedly offered a huge sum in exchange for his silence, but Louie felt insulted with the way it was offered. Part of the offer allegedly was to relocate in Australia, Canada or any country of his choice.

Told of her husband's situation, Heidi became worried that Louie's political work and affiliations would put the family and their livelihood in trouble, the friend said. She then kept on asking Louie to do something.

P2-million offer?

In the first week of July, Louie called up a lawyer who referred him to several opposition leaders. A leader of a militant group, who got wind of his potential as a witness, offered him P2 million, but it was also rejected.

His friend said Louie had wanted to come out, but wanted to strike a balance between his civic duty and the need to ensure that his family could continue to live decent lives.

Louie also wanted to settle some of his financial obligations for fear that the Palace would dig it up and take it against him, he added.

The Zuce family is now in the custody of an opposition group identified with former Internal Revenue Commissioner Liwayway Vinsons-Chato. With bodyguards in tow, they have been moving from one safe house to another since they traveled to Manila from Mindanao last week.

In a press conference organized by Chato on Monday, Louie alleged that former Lubao Mayor Lilia Pineda bribed several regional officials of the Commission on Elections in the La Vista home of President Macapagal-Arroyo to ensure her victory in the May 2004 elections. Heidi and the three kids stood by Louie during the press conference.

Ebdane's feelers

But Heidi is still restless, her friends said.

She fears that Ebdane's men might come back and, this time, get them all.

"One of Ebdane's boys is sending feelers to us. They want to talk to us, particularly me," the friend quoted Heidi as saying, recalling how government agents pressured the wife of T/Sgt. Vidal Doble, a military intelligence agent who had reportedly helped tape Garcillano and expose it.

Heidi personally knew a lot about the many orders some Palace officials gave to her husband for implementation, the friend said. While in Mindanao, Heidi would get a call from Louie in Manila to transfer certain cash in a bank to some local leaders there, he said, adding that she had kept some of the bank receipts.

"Louie has made a choice," the friend said.

"He could have just opted to live with his young family to avoid all this. He came out in the hope that he could help ferret out the truth. They talk about him getting money, but how much does it cost to fight Malacañang?"

Cagayan de Oro Councilor Ian Acenas said he first met Louie in 1997.

"I was still the president of Sangguniang Kabataan and I often saw him in activities sponsored by the National Youth Commission," Acenas recalled.

Palace rep?

Louie was also allegedly sent as a representative of the Office of the President during the election of the National Movement of Young Legislators (NMYL) about four months ago.

A young city councilor in Northern Mindanao, who requested anonymity, told the INQUIRER that Malacañang sent Louie and Husain Pangandaman to help them in the NMYL campaigns.

"I asked Ninang Arroyo to help us during the NMYL elections last May and she sent us Zuce and Pangandaman as her representatives under the Office of the President on Political Coalition with Undersecretary Ray Roquero," the councilor said. He said the President was a sponsor in his wedding.

"As far as I know, he worked with Usec Roquero under the Office of the President," the councilor said. "He was a youth leader in Cagayan de Oro and had worked under Lakas in the 1998, 2001 and last year's elections."

The councilor said he had met Louie countless times in Cagayan de Oro and in Malacañang.

'Man on the go'

Iligan City Mayor Lawrence Cruz, a KNP candidate, described Louie a "man on the go."

"He seems to be everywhere. He is always traveling, Cruz said.

He said Louie tried to convince him to move to the administration party during last year's elections.

Another source said Louie was fond of dropping names of powerful people, particularly those in Malacañang.

A Comelec official said Louie was a "fixer" who allegedly asked money from candidates in exchange for promises as he dropped the name of former Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano. *With reports from Grace Cantal-Albasin and Maricel Casiño, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Fake reporters nabbed for extortion

By DJ Yap

TWO MEN who had posed as reporters were arrested yesterday for allegedly trying to solicit money from Pampanga Gov. Mark Lapid, saying they were members of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP).

Arrested were Jerry Guina, 39, and Billy David, 32, who identified themselves as reporters for the Pampanga-based Ugnayan and Patrol News Express, respectively, police said.

NUJP director and Taliba news editor Ares Gutierrez said the two had faxed a solicitation letter to Lapid's office claiming they were NUJP members, and had requested funds for their participation at the "4th National Congress of NUJP" in Palawan. The two allegedly asked for P3,500 for each member of "their 15-man delegation." A check with the NUJP office by Lapid's staff revealed that there was no such convention. The two were not NUJP members, Gutierrez said.

At an entrapment operation, police apprehended the pair as they received P2,000 in marked money. Guina and David later admitted that they needed the money for a "fiesta" in their hometown, Gutierrez added.

JERRY Guina (left) and Billy David are presented to media after their arrest for extortion along Tomas Morato in Quezon City. The two reportedly posed as news reporters to solicit funds for a supposed congress of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines. RYAN LIM

It's a go for new bus route plan on Edsa

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and transport groups finally found a common ground yesterday on the controversial Organized Bus Route (OBR) scheme, paving the way for the implementation of the plan aimed at easing traffic on Edsa.

The MMDA said it would begin the full implementation of the OBR next week.

Willing to try

"I think the transport groups have realized how difficult it is to do business under the present setup, so they are now willing to give the scheme a try," said Angelito Vergel de Dios, MMDA Traffic Operations Center Executive Director.

The OBR, a first-on-first-off limited dispatch system at designated bus terminals along Edsa, was recently upheld as legal by a Makati court in a ruling on an injunction case filed by transport groups that branded the scheme a "restraint of trade". The MMDA said the system would maximize commuter loading of buses in one round-trip, boosting profits and saving on fuel expenses.

The agency has already readied five terminals to accommodate buses end to end. For southern commuters, terminals were set up at the Metropolis Mall, Alabang, Muntinlupa City; FTI in Bicutan, Taguig City; and Baclaran in Parañaque City. Terminals in northern Metro Manila include one in Navotas and another in Malanday, Valenzuela City. The MMDA also has a sprawling terminal complex in Novaliches, Quezon City.

Tamper-proof cards

Tamper-proof color-coded queue cards have also been readied for distribution to buses.

"The agreement was, if bus companies would earn more because of the scheme as we believe they would, we would continue implementing the scheme," said Vergel de Dios.

"If after months of observation we see that it's not working, then we would fix the loopholes or, if the failure persists, we would abort the scheme," he continued.

Issues reconciled

Issues on the OBR were reconciled Tuesday in a meeting between MMDA officials and some 20 representatives from bus companies, including owners and officers of Jell Transport, Gasat Express, Pascual Liner, Cign Transport, Saint Rose Transit, Original Transport, Filipinas Trailways and Everlasting Transport. Of the Metro Manila-based bus operators' organizations, only the Intercity Bus Operators Association (Interboa) sent a representative to the meeting.

Despite the absence of representatives from other transport groups, the MMDA said it would pursue the implementation of the scheme. The OBR was first implemented on an experimental basis in December 2003.

METROBRIEFS

Spurned partner nearly hacks cop

WALANG AYAW AYAW SA'KIN!

A POLICEMAN could not deliver when his live-in partner needed some loving. It nearly cost him his life. That was the story of Insp. Al Cabauatan who filed an attempted homicide suit against Losita Baiunggaya. Cabauatan said she wanted to have sex but he refused. At this the woman allegedly got a bolo while accusing him of "reserving his strength for another woman." *DJ Yap*

RMHS Batch '62 meeting

THE MONTHLY meeting of Batch 1962 of Ramon Magsaysay High School-España will be on Aug. 6, at the house of Angie Panganiban at 30 Carnation St., Dominic 5 Subdivision, Tandang Sora, Quezon City, at 2 p.m. For inquiries, call: Angie at 927-7035 (home) 527-4005, 527-3529-32 (office) 0917-817-3693; or Lito Polintan at 749-7891, 493-5752 (home), 0917-739-8960.

PNP tracking down Roldan woman friend

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE PHILIPPINE National Police has started operations to track down Suzette Wang, the alleged girlfriend of former congressman and actor Dennis Roldan, who is facing kidnap-for-ransom charges.

"The PNP, in coordination with other government agencies, is now tracing the whereabouts of Wang to pave the way for her eventual arrest," a statement from the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response (Pacer) said yesterday.

The Pasig City Regional Trial Court has already issued an arrest warrant against Wang after finding probable cause in the case the Department of Justice filed against her.

Roldan, whose real name is Mitchell Gumabao, and Wang had been accused of masterminding the kidnapping of a 3-year-old boy in February.

The couple's group allegedly asked for P250 million from the victim's family at the start of the negotiations, in exchange for the release of their son.

Roldan, and five other co-accused, have pleaded not guilty to the charges during their arraignment the other day.

After the arraignment, Roldan immediately filed an application for bail, saying the prosecution had no strong evidence to link him to the crime. Roldan is now detained at the Pasig City Jail, along with Noel San Andres, Rowena San Andres, Romeo Orcajada, and Adrian Domingo.

The court, however, allowed another suspect in the case, Octavio Garces, to stay at the Philippine National Police Custodial Service. Garcia had testified that Roldan and Wang masterminded the alleged kidnapping

Pasig City RTC Branch 261 Judge Agnes Carpio earlier issued a hold departure order against Wang.

WANG

AUV strike fizzles out, reset for next week

By Clarissa S. Batino

YESTERDAY'S strike of Asian utility vehicle (AUV) operators and drivers flopped but the transport sector said it would not stop protesting until the transportation department nullifies the implementation of the so-called AUV Express scheme.

Jun Magno, president of the Confederation of FX/Highlander/AUV Operators and Drivers' Association admitted that the turnout at yesterday's strike was lower than expected.

Only 400 to 500 AUV units of the projected 5,000 showed up outside the LTFRB offices on East Avenue in Quezon City.

The AUV Express scheme is scheduled to take effect on Friday. It will allow the conversion of about 9,000 franchises in limbo into legitimate FXs in exchange for P30,000 if the units qualify.

Magno said his group was planning to hold a bigger protest movement on Monday.

"We will not stop until they nullify the circular or amend it. We want the DOTC to intervene because the LTFRB has become very arrogant," said Magno.

Despite the low turnout, the protesters tried to have a motorcade to Mendiola but was stopped by police in Morayta, Manila, before noon.

"This Monday, we plan to go full force. We will meet over the weekend to finalize the details," said Magno.

After lunch yesterday, AUV units that joined the strike went back to their routes.

Magno blamed the influence of jeepney and bus operators over the LTFRB for what he called an "onerous" order.

But an official representing jeeps and buses noted that AUV operators must not complain too much because before the LTFRB crafted the AUV Express, these vehicles were operating illegally.

"This new policy is a compromise to solve the impasse. They must accept it first then petition to have it changed," said the official.

Magno said the scheme would kill their sector.

The group has 14,000 members in Metro Manila and nearby regions and 56,000 nationwide, Magno said. *With DJ Yap*

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Baby Pineda viewed in a different light

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

PAMPANGA Board Member Lilia "Baby" Pineda, wife of alleged jueteng lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda, allegedly handed out money contained in envelopes to Comelec supervisors at the residence of President Macapagal-Arroyo to try to get them to rig the 2004 presidential elections.

This item is not to belie or give truth to Zuce's claim about Baby Pineda.

Let me just portray Baby Pineda in a different light.

I've known Baby Pineda from way, way back.

Her husband Bong was my co-sponsor in a baptism many years ago.

Since then, Bong and I have become friends.

Whenever I go to the former Subic Naval Base for a weekend vacation, I don't miss passing by the house of the Pinedas in Lubao, Pampanga.

Baby personally serves me and my companions breakfast.

She always insists that I bring along packed goodies consisting of sardines, rice, corned beef, and noodles for the Aetas living inside the vast former US Navy complex.

Whenever I'm in Subic, I set up camp with selected Aetas in the forest.

Pineda's goodies that I distribute among the Aetas are not few.

There are more than a hundred families that receive the goodies.

Two 4x4 vehicles that I and my companions use practically bulge at the seams with the various foodstuff and other essentials inside the packages.

You think Pineda gives away goodies to the Aetas because they would reelect her provincial board member or her son Dennis as Lubao town mayor?

Remember, Subic Bay is in Olongapo City and not in Pampanga.

An Aeta housewife, a regular recipient of Baby Pineda's goodies whenever I'm in Subic, asked: "*Kuya, bakit namimigay si Baby Pineda sa amin ng pagkain, di naman kami makakaboto sa kanya* (Why does she give us food when we can't even vote for her)?"

After the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo, Baby Pineda was at the forefront of relief work not only in Pampanga but also in Zambales.

She visited refugee camps daily, building shelters for families who couldn't be accommodated in bunkhouses set up by the government.

I learned once that Baby had also visited a mental hospital in Bataan and found the patients there lacking in clothes, bed linen, and food.

The following day, all the patients had pajamas, slippers, bed linen and plenty of food.

What drives Baby Pineda to do charity work?

Is it to atone for her husband Bong's "sins"?

Baby told me once she and Bong came from humble beginnings.

She was a vendor in her teens.

Baby said she sympathizes with the poor because "we were once poor ourselves."

* * *

Optical Media Board chair Edu Manzano seems to be fighting an uphill battle against audio-visual piracy.

For starters, he's working on a lean budget. For another, some crooks in his office have upped the ante in their shady dealings with manufacturers and distributors of pirated materials.

Their reason: Edu is deadset on his drive, that's why it's more dangerous for them to protect and tip off pirates now.

To add to Manzano's woes, the building where his office is located, which was bought for P53 million in 1999, way before his time, was done without the benefit of a Board Resolution.

Now, the Commission on Audit is breathing down his neck.

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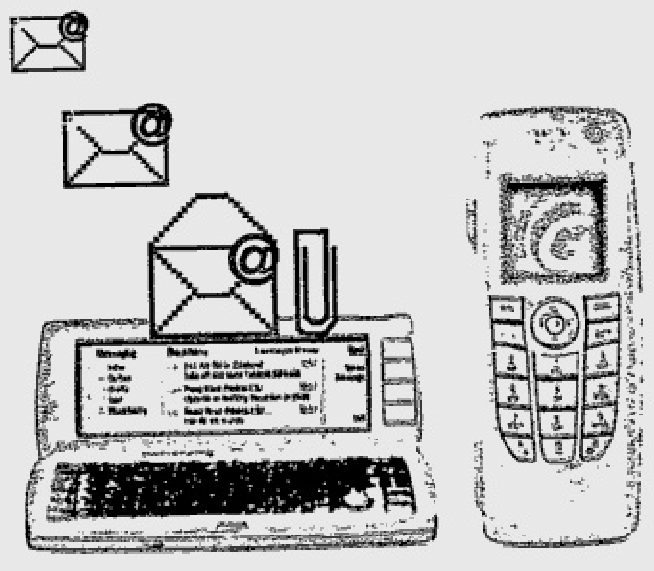

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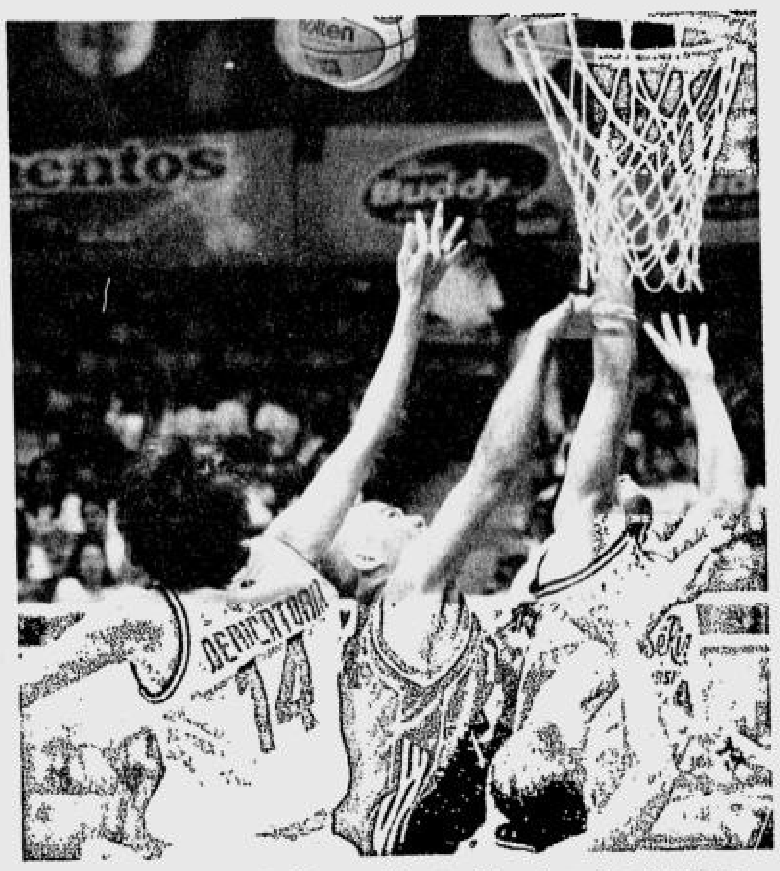


MARK Balneg (center) of Letran disputes the rebound against Jose Rizal's Floyd Dedicatoria (left), Jenciano Domancas and Raymund Jorge (back) at the Cuneta Astrodome. RYAN LIM

Knights slip past JRU Bombers; Altas shine

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE LETRAN Knights, keeping their composure down the stretch, slipped past the Jose Rizal U Bombers, 63-58, yesterday to extend their win run to eight games in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Still, coach Louie Alas was hardly impressed with the performance of his first five.

"We started flat, we had passive starters," said coach Louie Alas. "I commend my reserves, they were the ones who saved this game. They were the ones who gave us our biggest lead."

Boyet Bautista topscored with 13 points, while Aaron Abad delivered 11 points and nine rebounds as the Knights kept the Bombers in the cellar at 1-7.

Earlier, the University of Perpetual Help Altas caught the Mapua Cardinals flat-footed and posted an easy 67-40 triumph.

Sophomore guard Conrad Bauzon sizzled in the backcourt, shooting 18 of his 21 points beyond the arc as the Altas, runners-up last season, tied the St. Benilde Blazers for fifth place with a 3-5 record.

"Our offensive strength is there, we just have to keep on attacking," said Altas coach Bai Cristobal.

The Cardinals, who slipped to 5-3, shot only 28 percent. Their 40-point output is also the lowest this season.

The Knights posted their biggest lead at 53-42 before the Bombers mounted a 9-0 rally to pull within a basket, 53-51, with four minutes left.

Aban kept the Knights ahead, 58-52, even as the Bombers struggled at the free throw line, sinking only three of their last nine free throws.

The Altas set the tone for a lopsided victory with a 14-0 start.

With a 32-17 halftime edge, the Altas opened the third quarter with a 13-4 tear for a 24-point buffer, 45-21.

The scores:

First Game

PERPETUAL 67—Bauzon 21, Misa 11, Joe 1, Refuerzo 10, Apor 6, Balboa 3, Manuel 2, Racho 2, Manalang 0, Mendoza 0, Reyes 0.

MAPUA 40—Dela Peña 10, Co 9, Gonzales 6, Salud 5, Mazo 5, Ng 2, Migraso 2, Veranga 1, Sumalinog 0, Pascual 0, Gorospe 0, Tiongco 0, Del Rosario 0, Malgapo 0.

Quarters: 14-6, 32-17, 54-26, 67-40

Second Game

LETRAN 63—Bautista 13, Aban 11, Aldave 10, Alcaraz 10, Quinday 4, Piñera 4, Andaya 4, Balneg 3, Realista 2, Rodriguez 2, Mondragon 0, Anabo 0.

JRU 58—Domancas 18, Dedicatoria 16, Fenequito 10, Magtahao 7, Jorge 3, Mañiego 2, Natividad 2, Japson 0, San Luis 0.

Quarters: 15-14, 32-29, 48-40, 63-58

PBA aspirants undergo rookie camp

THE 54 applicants to the coming Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) Draft get a chance to strut their stuff when the league holds a two-day Rookie Camp this weekend.

Norman Black, one of the winningest coaches in PBA history and current mentor of the Ateneo Blue Eagles in the UAAP, has been designated director of the camp to be held at the Moro Lorenzo gym and Marikina Sports Complex, respectively.

This marks the first time the Rookie Camp, now on its third year, will be held for two straight days to give coaches, scouts and fans the opportunity to see first hand the future superstars of the league, according to PBA Commissioner Noli Eala.

"From among their ranks will come the future stars of the PBA. So we'd like to give the teams and the general public the chance to have a glimpse of them prior to the holding of this year's Rookie Draft," said Eala.

The first day of the camp, to be held on Aug. 6 (Saturday) at the Moro Lorenzo gym, is a closed-door session from 6-10 p.m. and exclusive only for coaches of all PBA teams.

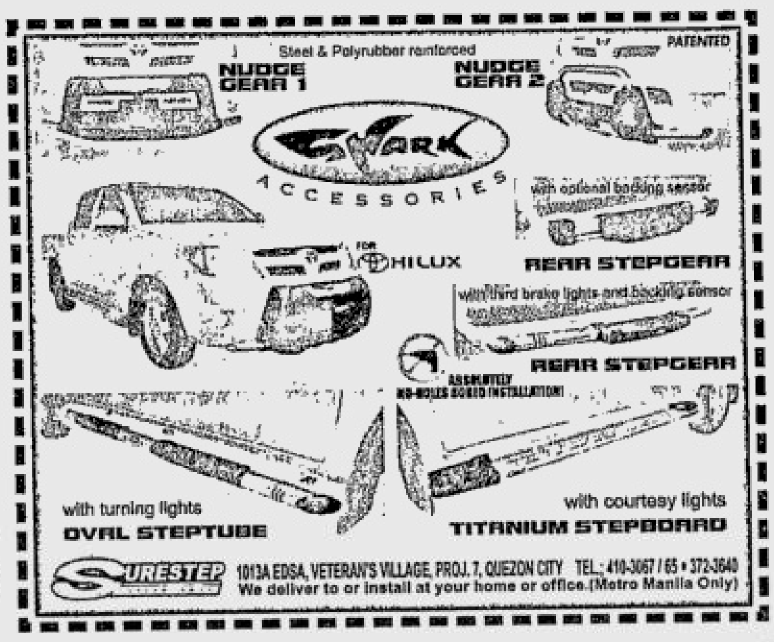
To know the rookie prospects better, they will undergo drills to test their skills, agility and quickness and shooting. They'll also be measured in terms of height, weight and vertical leap.

The following day (Aug. 7), applicants show their wares at the Marikina Sports Complex when the camp will be open to the public from 4-7 p.m.

The draft proper is set Aug. 14 at the Sta. Lucia East Mall in Cainta.

National pool member Anthony Washington of Welcoat, Alex Cabagnot and La Salle's Mark Cardona are among this year's top rookie prospects.

Other prominent names in the list include national players Dennis Miranda and Jondan Salvador, Far Eastern U's Don Yabut, former NCAA Most Valuable Player Leo Najorda, high-flying Nino Canaleta, Ateneo stalwarts Larry Fonacier and Paolo Bugia, Santo Tomas players Emerson Oreta and Alwyn Espiritu, National U's shifty guard Froilan Baguion, La Salle's Jerwin Gaco and Paolo Hubalde of the University of the East.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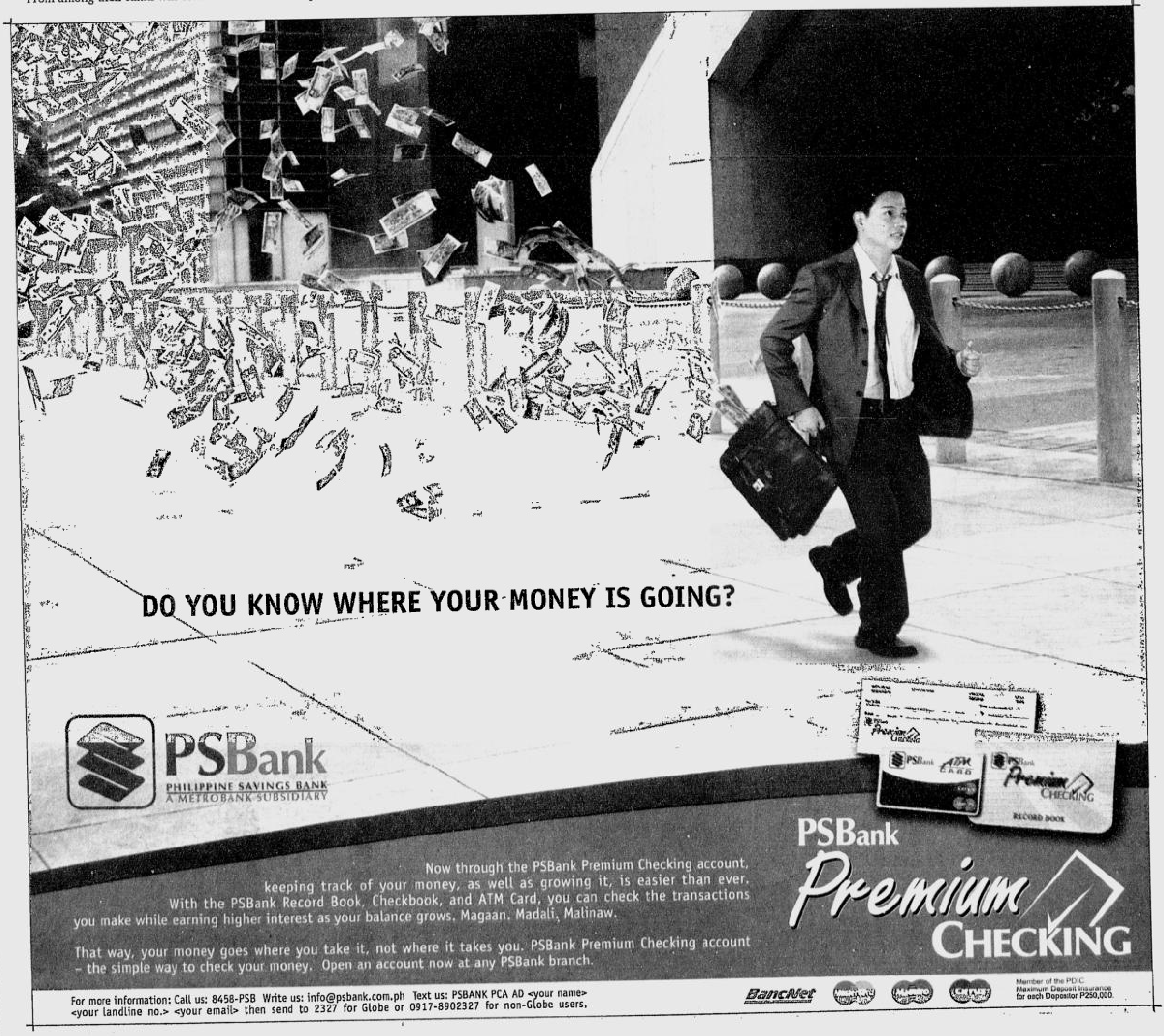
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Nat'l Marathon lures 14,000 bets

AS the 29th season of the national Milo Marathon reaches its halfway mark, Metro Manila runners and enthusiasts gear up for the National Capital Region leg on Sunday at the Quirino Grandstand.

Over 14,000 runners are expected to answer the starter's gun as registration ends today.

More than P250,000 are at stake in the Milo Marathon NCR race that also offers trophies and medals to the top 10 finishers in the 5K, 10K, 3K age-group for kids and the centerpiece 42K qualifying race held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel, adidas, Cebu Pacific, Smart Kid, Department of Tourism, Addict Mobile Prepaid and Powerbar.

Aside from the running events, schools in Metro Manila also prepare for the side events—the cheering competition, the biggest delegation contest and the inter-school running competition—which is beginning to steal the show from the Milo marathoners.

Among the early school entries gunning for the side event plums are the University of Makati, Ft. Bonifacio High School, Valenzuela High School, TUP, Benigno Aquino High School, City Colleges of Manila and AMA North Bay.

The 10K distance have thus far received over 1,500 entries while the 42K qualifying run have already attracted 500 runners. The 5K distance has 12,300 entries.

The qualifying time for the NCR 42K elimination run is four hours for the men and four hours and 30 minutes for the women. The cut off time for the full marathon distance is five hours.

The men's and women's champion in the NCR full marathon will pocket P30,000 each. They are also qualified to compete in the National Finals slated on Oct. 9 also in Metro Manila where the champions pocket P75,000.

After this Sunday's NCR elimination run, the Milo Marathon goes to Laoag City next Sunday, Aug. 14, for the Region 1 elimination run.

NEW CAGE BODY

Moying hoping for Fiba nod

"WE hope to get a positive response."

This optimism was expressed by Moying Martelino yesterday as the first president of the Philippine Basketball Federation prepared the first official communication to the international basketball federation (Fiba) seeking the lifting of the country's suspension from international competitions.

With the recent recognition of the new cage body by the Philippine Olympic Committee, the 70-year-old Martelino said the PBF is now ready to seek Fiba recognition as well.

"We hope to get a positive response from them (Fiba)," Martelino said. "I'm ready to fly to Switzerland (where Fiba is based) at a moment's notice so that we can iron things out with them."

The Philippines was effectively suspended by the Fiba as it rejected a POC decision to expel the Basketball Association of the Philippines from the local Olympic body last June.

The BAP was earlier suspended after reneging on basic agreements forged during a POC meeting with BAP officials and major stakeholders of the sport. *Musong R. Castillo*

Cavite meets Manila today in NBC meet

FAR Eastern Insurance-backed Cavite goes up against winless Manila today at the Pasay Sports Complex, seeking its seventh win in 12 games in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship.

The Insurers are slightly favored over the Bacchus-Harbour Centre-backed Manilans in the 5 p.m. contest.

The talent-laden Manilans have yet to win in the tourney supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Sunbolt Sports Drink, Accel, Molten, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorcycles, Silitz, Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam, KSK Food Products (Boy Bawang), Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

Manila lost its first three games to Laguna Spring, Valencia Golden Harvest and Iligan Crusaders.

The Insurers of Bacoor Vice Mayor Edwin Malvar and strong supporter Gov. Ireneo "Ayong" Maliksi have turned their fortunes around since acquiring PBL veterans Marvin Ortiguerra, Marvin Mamaclay and Mark Abadia.

On the other hand, Manila hopes to break into the win column with the help of former Letran Knights Ronjay Enrile and Harold Sta. Cruz, ex-Bedans Arjun Cordero and James Hudencial, veteran Nani Epondulan and Fil-Ams Rich Hardin and Francis Rauschmayer.

Sta. Rosa-Spring drubs Pamplona

MIKE Nuque delivered the big shots at the right time Tuesday to propel Sta. Rosa-Spring of Mayor Joey Katindig and businessman Johnny de Jesus past Pamplona-Plantation, 93-83, in an overtime thriller in the 9th Danny Espiritu Cup basketball tournament at the Washington gym in Makati City.

Nuqui sank 11 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter and then combined with guard Mar Reyes for nine markers in a 15-5 windup in the extra period to complete Spring's comeback from a 16-point deficit.

It was the second straight win for Sta. Rosa-Spring in the tourney supported by San Miguel, Air21, Baker's Fair, Funtastic KTV, Gen. Milling Corp., Spring Cooking Oil and Prime Channel.

"Mike (Nuqui) bailed us out," said Spring coach Vic "Rambo" Sanchez. "The boys simply never gave up."

In the other game, San Sebastian College-Cavite routed Manuel L. Quezon University, 84-64, for its second win in three games.

The Stags jumped to a 26-16 first-quarter lead and never looked back.

UE point guard Robert Labagala defends against Adamson's Patrick Cabahug in their game Saturday as Warriors mentor Dindo Pumaren (left) shouts instructions. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Hot Warriors tackle Eagles; UP-AdU today

UNIVERSITY of the East coach Dindo Pumaren believes his Warriors can cope with high expectations when they battle the Ateneo Eagles in the UAAP basketball tournament today at the Araneta Coliseum.

GAMES TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
9:30 a.m.—UP vs Adamson (Jrs)
11:30 a.m.—UE vs Ateneo (Jrs)
1:30 p.m.—UP vs Adamson (Srs)
4 p.m.—UE vs Ateneo (Srs)

"If our aggressiveness and the determination of the players are there, we'll be all right," said Pumaren as his young and gritty Warriors gun for their fifth straight win at 4 p.m.

Just as surprising as the Warriors' impressive streak is the sudden slump of the University of the Philippines Maroons, who are now tied with the Eagles at 3-2.

The Maroons will try to recover from a two-game slide when they tackle the Adamson Falcons at 1:30 p.m.

The Warriors got major contributions from three rookies in their 90-69 rout of the Falcons last Saturday.

Bonifacio Custodio delivered an all-around performance with 19 points, four rebounds, eight assists and five steals. The freshman guard also got ample support from Mark Borboran and James Martinez, who combined for 27 points.

"The strength of our team is our quickness," noted Pumaren. "Ateneo is playing well, they just won back-to-back. They also have a very tall lineup."

But coach Norman Black said his Eagles have to play a lot better even after scoring their first big win over the Maroons, 71-63, last Saturday.

"It's going to be tougher," said Black. "You're looking at a team that's going to press us for 40 minutes. They'll try to take us out of our offense. We know what we have to do. It's just a matter of completing it and getting it done."

Black is also worried of the Eagles' numerous turnovers—27.6 per game. *Jasmine W. Payo*

RP drivers to test Sentul Circuit

DADO Peña and Tyson Sy will lead a big bunch of drivers who will test-drive at the Sentul Circuit in Indonesia as part of their preparations for the seventh and eighth rounds of the Asian Formula Three series on Aug. 20-21.

Peña, the best-placed Filipino driver in the overall class at sixth with 37 points, will fine-tune his Team Goddard-Minardi Team Asia Dallara 301 Tom's car while Sy, of Speed Tech Asia, who's running seventh with 36 points, will also test drive his Dallara Tom's 301.

Both drivers have had podium finishes in the first six rounds of the Asian-nation hopping series but have yet to score a win. Dado's best finish so far was runner-up in the third leg in Zhuhai, China, while Sy had finished third twice, both in Zhuhai.

Other drivers who will sample the Sentul circuit, built in 1997 for Formula One racing, are the four members of Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO Team, the Asia F3 championship leader in the team event with 117 points.

James Winslow of Great Britain, fresh from his victory in the sixth leg in Zhuhai, and Irishman John O'Hara will run in their Dallara 301 Tori cars. Former AF3 champion Pepon Marave, running fifth in the overall class with 40 points, will test his Dallara 304 Tom's car although he may switch to Tori power if the latter engine arrives on time.

The fourth member of the Shell Helix team, Irishman Lee Farrell, will test-drive the Promotions Class Dallara 398 Tom's car.

Team Goddard-Minardi Team Asia owner Mark Goddard will test-drive Greg Murphy's Dallara 398 Tom's Promotions Class in a bid to fine-tune the car and give Murphy the best possible chance to win his Promotions Class battle with Moreno Soeprapto of Indonesia.

Soeprapto's half-brother, Ananda Mikola, the championship leader with 95 points, will test his Fastron Racing with Three Bond Dallara 304 Nissan. Mikola dominated two races in Sentul last year and is bidding to sweep the next two rounds, along with the ninth and 10th rounds next month.

BOWLING GUEST: Philippine Bowling Congress executive vice president Jaime C. Dychauco delivers his inspirational talk during the opening of the 8th AMBA-Pepsi Open bowling championship recently at Gameworx Recreation Center in Festival Supermall, Alabang. Dychauco also led the ceremonial roll.

BORJA shows winning form in his mountain bike.

Borja rules Oakley Mt. Bike Challenge

EXPERT rider Mike Borja topped the Downhill Division of the first-ever Oakley Mountain Bike Challenge at the Palo Alto Racetrack, Barangay Pinugay, Baras, Rizal, recently.

His top-of-the-line mountain bike jiving well with his innate riding skills, Borja clocked a fast 42.59 seconds to beat Joey Barba (43.31) and Jeff Odijar (45.47).

Marky Trinidad ruled the Novice category with a time of 48.56, followed by Alan Isidro (52.94) and Chonny Chan (53.54) in the event where Oakley items and accessories were raffled off to participants. Roan Calaan (57.51) and Noy Cangoy (58.06) placed fourth and fifth, respectively.

In the Beginners' Division, Paolo Tan won in 49.06, besting Marquia Cruz (52.85), Joy Iballa (53.79), Ogie Callanga (54.56) and Ramon Diaz (58.05).

Organized by KP5 president Nani A. Pazcoguin, the Oakley Mountain Bike Challenge is sponsored by Oakley, Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Inc., RC Cola, Aqua Soft, Sunbolt, Tropical Ice, YRS, Oggie Doggie Hotdogs and Sausages, Triplex, Networx, East Cars, Artech, Aison Auto Center, Cross Train, Cycling Zone, Joven, Newton, Paulina's, Techno Turbo Trading and Dan's Bike Shop. Pazcoguin also thanked Mayor Willy Robles and the medical team 2 of Baras, Rizal.

In the Cross Country competition, Roldan Antonio, Rex Cortes and Romeo Beconio placed 1-2-3 in the sports category while Nides Pazcoguin won the Celebrity Division with Dominic Ochoa, Antonio Aquitania and Christopher Peralta ranking 2-3-4.

9th August Fore stakes Vios at Wack Wack

A TOYOTA Vios 1.3 and a Honda motorcycle top the list of prizes to be disputed when the Rotary Club of Diliman stages the ninth edition of the August Fore! Invitational golf tournament tomorrow at the west course of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

The Vios from Toyota Motors Phils. Corp. and the Honda motorbike from Ropali Corp. are at stake as hole-in-one prizes on designated holes.

About a hundred players made up of invited guests, sponsors and patrons are joining the tourney which is expected to generate funds for RC Diliman's mission to help the underprivileged and needy sectors of Quezon City and nearby areas.

Responding to the call of RC Diliman are Performance Forex Corp., Nestle Phils. (Nestle Food Services), Barclays Capital Asia Limited, International Container/Terminal Services Inc., Zuellig Corp., Manila Bank, Maybank Phil. Inc., L.G. Atkimson, San Miguel Super Dry Beer, ABC Foundation through Lew Edwards, Avesco, Air21 and S.L. Agri-tech.

Dynamic Sports Corp. is also donating a Cobra golf set to the hole-in-one package that also includes a home showcase and a Paul Harris Fellowship certificate of membership. If not won on the course, the Honda motorcycle and the home showcase will be raffled off.

Through the years, the August Fore! has helped provide funds for various socio-civic projects of RC Diliman like the Rotarympics for the differently-abled; Alay Kay Lolo at Lola for the neglected senior citizens; anti-rabies campaign; Project Books for Knowledge book donation program for public school libraries and awards for the most outstanding public attorney in Quezon City.

This year's proceeds will also fund the projects of TIB-ONG Foundation (providing support to Education for the poor in Negros Occidental) and Cataract Operation for children of the Rotary Club of Quezon City.

The field will be divided into three divisions based on the average handicaps of the two players.

There will be the Gold, Silver and Bronze divisions with the top three finishers in each division winning trophies. Special prizes will be given to players who hit the longest drive on No. 4, the most accurate drive on No. 12 and the nearest the pin on No. 3.

Children's backboard spurs basketball

RAISING future basketball stars begins with the right equipment.

This is the credo of Spalding-Huffy, the world's leading basketball equipment provider, which is introducing through Proline Sports Center its latest line of backboard systems—the Youth Portable and One-On-One—that are perfect for young Filipinos aspiring to play in the big league.

Proline's Joven Babaan said that the Youth Portable and One-On-One were ideal entry level backboard systems for budding Filipino ballers because of their durability, portability and flexibility.

"Kids get more interested in their game when they play with the right equipment especially those endorsed by the NBA," Babaan said.

The Youth Portable backboard is designed to fill the gap between the toy and full size portable backboard systems. It has a 32-inch Eco-Composite fan backboard and a 14-inch diameter rim.

The telescoping backboard mount easily adjusts backboard height in 2-inch increments from 4.5 feet to 6.5 feet. The 3-piece pole system can be easily assembled and stands on a 14-gallon base.

The One-On-One is designed as a starter set for kid hoopsters and can be adjusted to a height of between 32 and 52 inches. It has a 24-inch backboard with a colorful NBA graphics and a 10-inch diameter molded slam rim from durable plastic materials. It can be used indoor or outdoor and can be erected firmly with its one-gallon base that can be filled up with either sand or water for stability.

Both backboards are equipped with the Quick Clip nets, a safety net release system that prevents injuries by releasing the net when a player gets their hand caught in it.

YOUNG children can play basketball safely with the Spalding-Huffy backboard.

Miami acquires Walker

Heat complete record NBA trade, re-sign Shaq

Teams begin trades, free agent signing

WASHINGTON—Kwame Brown, a disappointment since becoming the first high school player taken first overall in the National Basketball Association Draft, was traded Tuesday by Washington to the Los Angeles Lakers.

On the first day of free agent signings and transfers for the upcoming NBA season, the Wizards announced a deal that sent Brown and guard Laron Profit to the Lakers in exchange for forward Caron Butler and guard Chucky Atkins.

In Cleveland, Ohio, LeBron James will have a new group of supporting players around him as he tries to lift the Cleveland Cavaliers into the NBA playoffs.

The Cavaliers signed free agents Larry Hughes and Donyell Marshall and re-signed All-Star center Zydrunas Ilgauskas here Tuesday.

Hughes, 26, averaged a career-high 22 points last season for Washington and led the NBA with 2.9 steals in 61 games.

In San Antonio, Texas, Robert Horry signed a new contract to stay with the reigning NBA champions, the San Antonio Spurs.

Horry lived up to his nickname of "Big Shot Bob" in the NBA Finals, sinking a game-winning overtime 3-pointer in the fifth game to help the Spurs defeat the Detroit Pistons in seven games in the best-of-seven championship series. *AFP*

MIAMI, Florida—The Miami Heat, who missed reaching the National Basketball Association finals by one game, acquired three-time All-Star forward Antoine Walker from Boston in a five-team, 13-player deal.

WALKER AP

Walker was the centerpiece of the largest trade in NBA history. The deal also involved Memphis, New Orleans and Utah.

The previous biggest trade in league history came in 2000, when New York dealt Patrick Ewing in a four-team, 12-player swap.

The Heat also nabbed point guard Jason Williams, shooting guard Andre Emmett and forward James Posey from Memphis, while sending guard Eddie Jones to the Grizzlies. Miami also received the draft rights of Roberto Duenas of Spain from New Orleans.

"We feel like with this trade that we traded a lot, but we got back three quality players," Heat president Pat Riley said. "Antoine Walker is one of the very best multifaceted, versatile players in the game. I think the numbers have shown throughout his career that he has been consistent year-in and year-out, providing points and rebounds."

As part of the deal, the Heat shipped guard-forward Qyntel Woods, the draft rights to Spanish center Albert Miralles, two second-round picks and cash to Boston. The Heat also dealt shooting guard Rasual Butler to New Orleans.

All the moves are a significant change for Miami, who came within one win of reaching the NBA Finals for the first time in club history last season. Earlier Tuesday, the Heat reportedly signed superstar center Shaquille O'Neal to a five-year, $100-million contract.

O'Neal's renegotiated deal gives the Heat more money under NBA salary cap limitations to try and surround "Shaq" with superior talent in hopes of bringing Miami an NBA crown.

"I'm very excited about my new agreement," O'Neal said. "This contract allows me to address all of my family's long-term financial goals while allowing the Heat the ability to acquire those players that we need to win a championship."

The Heat roster will not be the only one that has a drastically different look next season.

Utah got center Greg Ostertag from Memphis, Boston obtained Curtis Borchardt from the Jazz, New Orleans received guard Kirk Snyder from Utah, and Memphis got guard Raul Lopez from the Jazz.

According to reports, Walker signed a six-year deal worth nearly $53 million with the Celtics, providing the framework for the trade.

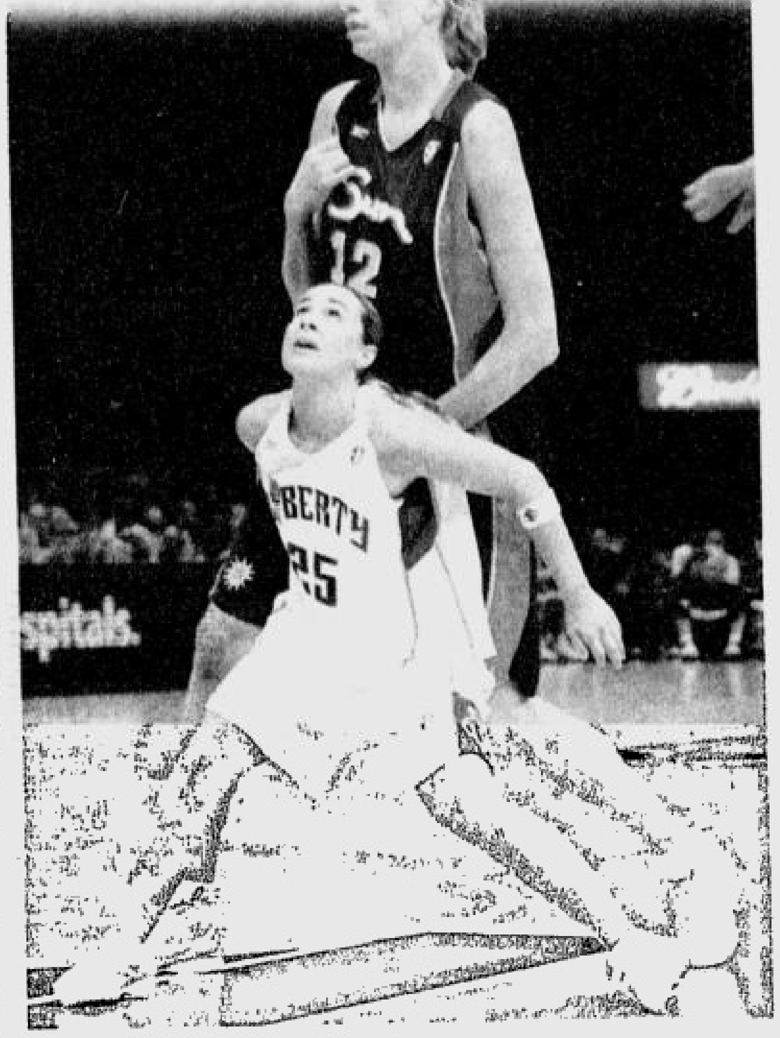
In Miami, Walker will become the club's starter at small forward. Williams could start at point guard if Damon Jones departs as a free agent as is expected.

"Outside of Steve Nash and Jason Kidd, there isn't a better open-floor, half-court playmaker in the league than Jason Williams," Riley said.

Walker, who turns 29 on August 12, has career averages of 19.8 points, 8.7 rebounds and 4.1 assists. Walker was selected sixth overall by Boston in the 1996 NBA draft.

Entering his eighth season, the 29-year-old Williams has career averages of 11.7 points and 6.8 assists. He was selected seventh overall by Sacramento in 1998.

Posey, 29, has career averages of 10.1 points and 4.9 rebounds in six seasons and will provide depth behind Dwyane Wade. *AFP*



MISMATCH: The New York Liberty's Becky Hammon, in front, guards the Connecticut Sun's 7-foot-2-inch center Margo Dydek, of Poland, during the second half of their WNBA game at Madison Square Garden in New York Tuesday. AP

adidas, Reebok merge

ADIDAS-Salomon AG and Reebok Int'l. Ltd. yesterday announced that their boards of directors have unanimously approved a definitive agreement under which adidas-Salomon AG would acquire all of the outstanding shares of Reebok for $59.00 per share in cash.

The offer price represents a premium of 34.2 percent over the closing price of Reebok's stock on Aug. 2.

The transaction value is approximately $3.8 billion, including the assumption of net cash of $84 million.

The combination of adidas and Reebok accelerates the adidas group's strategic intent in the global athletic footwear, apparel and hardware markets.

The new group will benefit from a more competitive platform worldwide, well-defined and complementary brand identities, a wider range of products, and an even stronger presence across teams, athletes, events and leagues.

The new adidas group has pro forma aggregate 2004 revenues of $11.1 billion.

"Today's announcement represents a major strategic milestone for our group," said adidas-Salomon chair and CEO Herbert Hainer. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to combine two of the most respected and well-known companies in the worldwide sporting goods industry."

SPORTSWATCH

Siso completes junior tennis double

DIPOLOG—Bernardine Siso outclassed Fritz Verdad, 8-1, in the boys' 12-under then edged Dave Regencia, 8-5, in the boys' 14-under division to complete a double in the 2005 MILO Junior Tennis Cup & Regional Workshop here at the Dipolog Country Club. Siso shared the limelight with Keanu Caburian in the unisex 10-under; Francis Largo in the boys' 16-under; while Largo and James Canete were declared co-champions in the boys' 18-under class in the event organized by CTW and supported by adidas with Philta sanction. Caburian downed Frencharles Cabrera, 8-4, and Largo whipped Larry Antigua, 8-5.

Blue Eagle radio features 'Baby Rocket'

ON HALIKINU Radio tomorrow, Ateneo players JC "The Baby Rocket" Intal and sophomore center Japeth Aguilar talk about the Blue Eagles' current campaign in the UAAP men's basketball. Intal is averaging 13 points and 8 rebounds per game for the Eagles while Aguilar is the league's leading shot-blocker, tallying 3 blocks per outing. Joining Intal and Aguilar in this week's show is alternative band Rampqueen. Halikinu Radio, hosted by sportscaster Mico Halili, airs live every Friday, 9-10 p.m. over NU 107 FM co-presented by Smart Buddy Prepaid, PLDT MyDSL and Addict Mobile Prepaid. For everything blue, plug into Halikinu.

SBC-Manila trips Ateneo

SAN BEDA College-Manila nipped defending champion Ateneo, 60-59, last Sunday in the Milo BEST SBP/Passerelle basketball tournament at the Xavier School gym. In other SBP games, SBC-Manila ripped Notre Dame of Greater Manila, 81-24; Marist beat PWU-JASMS, 66-27; Lourdes (Mandaluyong) downed Jose Rizal University, 49-35; PWU-JASMS routed Trinity, 43-21; Xavier crushed St. Mary's, 63-35, and Lourdes nosed out Don Bosco Makati, 37-35. In the Passerelle division, it was Don Bosco Makati over Notre Dame, 68-58; De La Salle Zobel over Don Bosco Mandaluyong, 63-53; Marist over Don Bosco Makati, 67-61, and UST over Notre Dame.

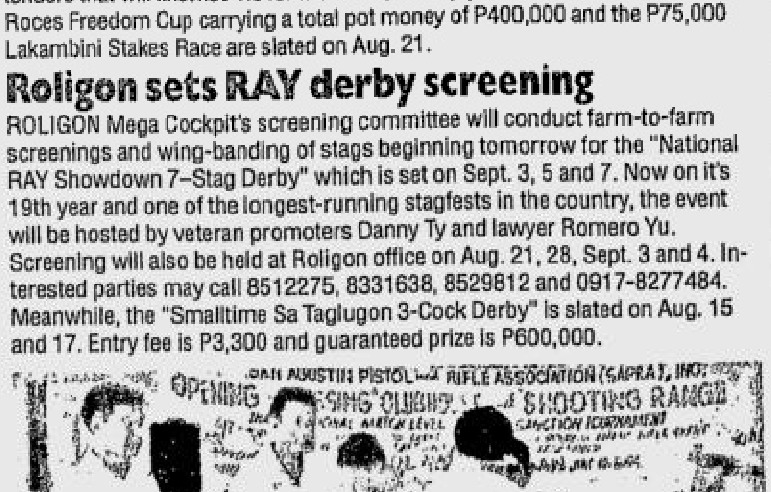
CHAMPS: Sylvia Lina (8th from left) receives from coach Johny Tam the trophy of the FedEx Express, which placed third in the 14th Eastcolight Super Kung Sheung Cup International Invitational Championships in Hong Kong. Also present were (from left) Lina Group of Companies executives Gary Cayton and Reuben Pangan, players Ranidel de Ocampo, Egay Billones, John Ferriols, Gary David, Bruce Dacia, Air21 president Lito Alvarez, Ben Zeta, lawyer Geraldine Paloma, Mike Aquino, Romy Tan and Rudy Fulo.

MJC, PRC host big-time races

THE MANILA Jockey Club is set to host the battle of the country's most promising 2-year-old chargers Sunday, Aug. 7, while the Philippine Racing Commission stages the 1st leg of the Juvenile Stakes Series for Colts and for Fillies at the San Lazaro Leisure Park (SLLP) in Carmona, Cavite. These two events to be contested by the country's top 2-year-old colts and fillies sponsored by the Philracom, carry a total gross prize of P1 million each. In the Juvenile Colt race, Dixie The Younger leads five other protagonists that will be vying for the P600,000 top prize. The Juvenile Fillies Stakes race is composed of six contenders that will likewise vie for the P600,000 top prize. Meanwhile, the Chino Roces Freedom Cup carrying a total pot money of P400,000 and the P75,000 Lakambini Stakes Race are slated on Aug. 21.

Roligon sets RAY derby screening

ROLIGON Mega Cockpit's screening committee will conduct farm-to-farm screenings and wing-banding of stags beginning tomorrow for the "National RAY Showdown 7–Stag Derby" which is set on Sept. 3, 5 and 7. Now on it's 19th year and one of the longest-running stagfests in the country, the event will be hosted by veteran promoters Danny Ty and lawyer Romero Yu. Screening will also be held at Roligon office on Aug. 21, 28, Sept. 3 and 4. Interested parties may call 8512275, 8331638, 8529812 and 0917-8277484. Meanwhile, the "Smalltime Sa Taglugon 3-Cock Derby" is slated on Aug. 15 and 17. Entry fee is P3,300 and guaranteed prize is P600,000.


SAN AGUSTIN PISTOL AND RIFLE ASSOCIATION (SAPRAI), INC.
OPENING
SHOOTING RANGE

SHOOTER'S HAVEN: Iligan City Sports Committee chair and Councilor Varf Belmonte (second from left) and City Sports director Frederick Siao (extreme left) are shown in the photo during the blessing and opening of the clubhouse and shooting range of San Agustin Pistol and Rifle Association Inc. in Iligan City recently.

Agriculture's 'Kabise' a PBA legend, too

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

DING Panganiban is now our Agriculture secretary, but do you know that he was once a PBA coach and manager at the same time? A PBA legend in his own right, if you ask me.

The young ones now covering the PBA may not know about it but not the young once. Especially the so-called battle-scarred ones like Quinito Henson, Ed Picson and me.

But Ding Panganiban got into the PBA not by accident, in the same manner that he didn't become Agriculture boss by accident.

He's been in basketball since 1972. He entered the Department of Agriculture in 1961, straight from UP-Los Baños.

It's nostalgia time, fellas. Read on.

Besides being an adroit coach, Ding, whose friends call him affectionately as "Kabise," was also a no-nonsense manager.

"I whipped the boys in line whether it was a mere scrimmage or an actual game," the secretary's telling me now, minutes after finishing a bowl of honeyed, syrupy banana. "As manager, I never exceeded my budget even for a single peso."

He was the Masagana 99 coach/manager when the team consistently won the National Seniors crown in the '70s, with Nic Jorge, Billy Abarrientos and Turo Valenzona also coaching the famous Masagana 99 squad on separate occasions.

Just weeks after the 1986 Edsa Revolt, Kabise flew to Africa. He became the chief aquaculture adviser of Madame Bongo, wife of President Bongo of Gabon. Gabon is the wealthiest African country, with rich deposits of uranium, gold, diamonds and oil.

He cut his six-month contract to two months after putting in place livestock and tiger prawn cultures, among others.

"Madame Bongo paid me six months for a two-month job and I couldn't believe it," Kabise said, unabashedly proud of his achievement, which included the setting up of egg hatcheries that were then hitherto unknown in Gabon, and the harvesting of tiger prawns the modern way. "They've never seen live chickens until my team arrived."

He was all set for a grand vacation—"I was paid $58,000 and that was a lot back then"—but, alas, just two days after his arrival from Africa, Kabise received a call from Don Jaime Zobel.

"He said he wanted me to form a Purefoods basketball team and coach it in the PABL (forerunner of the PBL)," Kabise said. "Joey Concépcion was then PABL president. I talked to Elmer Yanga, Joey's right-hand man, who said Purefoods needs to pay P250,000 to get aboard. Don Jaime said, 'Shoot!' And that's how we got into the PABL."

In their very first PABL tournament in 1986, Kabise and his ragtag Purefoods team finished a fighting second. In his lineup then were "John Lucas, Joel Santos, Portoza and Magana," among others. No star. Not even a star material.

"We were ahead by two and during a time-out, I ordered my boys to cover Samboy Lim," Kabise said of the championship game against Magnolia. "*Akala ko si* Samboy *ang titira*. He kicked out a pass to Allan Caidic, who sank a triple from the corner and we lost the championship by a point!"

Still, Don Jaime Zobel was overjoyed by Kabise's performance. Kabise got praises from all over.

The following year, 1987, Purefoods entered the PBA by buying the Tanduay franchise. It marked the establishment of the PBA Millionaires Club as Purefoods snared Alvin Patrimonio, Jerry Codiñera and Jojo Lastimosa from the amateur backyard with million-peso contracts. Also captured by Purefoods were Glenn Capacio and Nelson Asaytono, who, together with Patrimonio, Codiñera and Lastimosa, became the most lethal starting five that year. The late Jack Tanuan was the sixth man.

You know how much Purefoods bought the Tanduay franchise?

"Only P4 million," said Kabise. "And Attorney (Rudy) Salud was a big help in that deal."

(Conclusion of this piece on Sunday.)

***

FASTBREAK. Malaya Sol is her name, 7.1 lbs, 48 cm. Brought to this world by Malaya Sadiwa (Free Spirit?). Thank you to Doctors Mayette Sapaula, Luisita Cojuangco-Bautista, Pepito Oreta, Daboy del Carmen and Enrico Antonio Ilao. The baby's nickname is Maya, but I call her Mayasoh, first cousin to Mayo, Dada and Mimi. Yes, Kabise, chocolates are on the house!

***

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3 (DOLBY) MONSTER IN LAW
4 (DTS) THE ISLAND

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 (DOLBY) STEALTH

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 STEALTH
4 WEDDING CRASHER

Blue Wave
MARQUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY) D' ANOTHERS
2 (DOLBY) WEDDING CRASHER
3 (DOLBY) STEALTH
4 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) SOON TO OPEN
2 SOON TO OPEN
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN
5 SOON TO OPEN

Universal
(Manila) tel: 7334043 or 2470

1 RESERVED

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 D' ANOTHERS
2 STEALTH
3 NEW POLIS STORY
4 RESERVED

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 ALIPIN
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) STEALTH
5 D' ANOTHERS

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 D' ANOTHERS
2 STEALTH
3 YEAR OF THE YAO

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue
(Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1 NEW POLICE STORY
2 SIN CITY

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) THE ISLAND
2 SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT
3 SEX ISCANDAL
4 (DTS) EVIL DEAD

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 (DOLBY) RESERVED
6 RESERVED

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) CAMPUS GHOST STORY
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 (DTS EX) STEALTH
4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) D' ANOTHERS
2 STEALTH
3 (DTS) EVIL DEAD
4 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
5 SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1 D' ANOTHER
2 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
3 (DOLBY) STEALTH
4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 GRACIA
2 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
3 HEAD IN THE CLOUDS
4 D' ANOTHERS

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(LAS PINAS) tel. 8735004

1 (DOLBY) THE ISLAND
2 RESERVED

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1 D' ANOTHER
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 (DOLBY) HERBIE FULLY LOADED
4 (DTS) THE ISLAND

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 D' ANOTHERS

Benma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 NENA
2 NEW POLICE STORY

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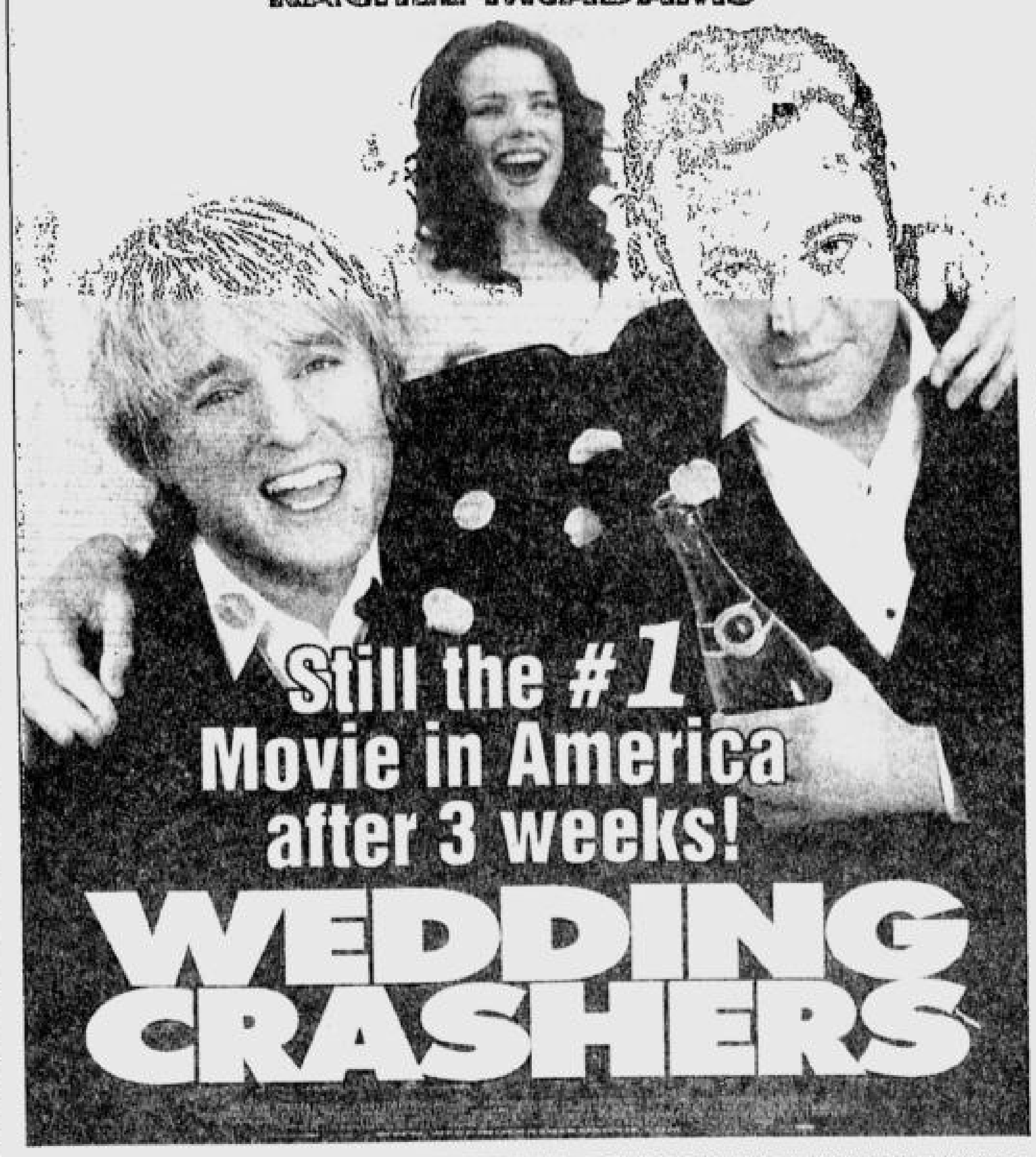
RACHEL McADAMS



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CINEMA SCHEDULES

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P120 RESERVED SEATS
P140 THE ISLAND, STEALTH & CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY 12:00 / 2:25 / 4:50 / 7:15 / 9.40	GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY 1.45 / 4.10 STEALTH 6.30 / 9.00
YEAR OF THE YAO 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30	D' ANOTHERS 12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30
CRASH 12:20 / 2:35 / 4:50 / 7:05 / 9:20	IF ONLY 1:45 / 4:10 / 6:35 / 9:00
EYE INFINITY 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00	WEDDING CRASHERS 12.50 / 3:40 / 6:30 / 9:20
STEALTH 2:10 / 4:40 / 7:10 / 9:40	THE ISLAND 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30

ALI MALL CINEMAS

① D' ANOTHERS 11:25 / 1:40 / 3:55 / 6:10 / 8:25	④ ARAHAN
② YEAR OF THE YAO 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30	⑤ STEALTH 12:35 / 3:05 / 5:35 / 8:05
③ CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY 12:50 / 3:15 / 5:40 / 8:05	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS

Aug. 4 Thursday UP vs Adu *Jrs 10am* UE vs ADMU *Jrs 12nn* UP vs Adu *Srs 2pm* UE vs ADMU *Srs 4pm*	UAAP - NCAA ALL STAR GAMES *August 13, Saturday*
MTV PILIPINAS 2005 *August 25, Thursday 8 pm*	CUSA BASKETBALL LEAGUE *August 26, Friday* OPENING GAMES

CENTER EVENTS

PROMOS	*Araneta Center Hoopla raffle promo ongoing until October 14. Watch a game at the Coliseum + Buy a Sim Pack + Shop at Araneta Center for a chance to win trips to Singapore, Thailand, Cebu, Bohol, Boracay, Palawan & Puerto Galera! Plus 10 Nokia cellphones and 25 iPods!*
PERFORMANCES	*Cool Live Jazz at the Gateway Courtyard featuring **Chedi** on August 5 (9pm); **Cueshe** (8pm) and **Skarlet & The Jazz Volunteers** (9pm) on August 6*

LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

ELSE WHERE

Osment is back

LOS ANGELES—Oscar-nominated US child star Haley Joel Osment is returning to the big screen after a two-year break to star in a coming-of-age movie titled "Home of the Giants," industry press said Monday.

The star of the hit ghost movie "The Sixth Sense," now 17, will play a teenager who idolized a basketball star in a small Midwestern US town in the independent movie to be directed by Rusty Gorman,

Production is scheduled to begin on the film in the next two months in North Carolina, according to entertainment industry bible Hollywood Reporter.

Osment was nominated for an Academy Award for his spooky role as a child who could see spirits in 1999's "The Sixth Sense," starring Bruce Willis.

He also had leading roles in the film "Pay It Forward" and in Steven Spielberg's "A.I. Artificial Intelligence." His most recent role was in 2003's "Secondhand Lions," opposite Robert Duvall and Michael Caine. *AFP*

Another Oprah TV production

LOS ANGELES—US television talk show queen Oprah Winfrey is in negotiations to bring author Toni Morrison's 1998 novel "Paradise" to the small screen as a four-hour mini-series, the industry press reported Monday.

Winfrey, one of America's richest women who is currently celebrating the 20th anniversary of her hit talk show, and her Harpo Films company are in talks with the US ABC television network, Hollywood Reporter said.

"Paradise," written by Nobel Prize for literature winner Morrison after her 1993 win of the top laurel, tells the story of the murder of several women by a group of black men in a small Oklahoma town in 1976. *AFP*

SECOND WEEK!
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JOSH LUCAS JESSICA BIEL JAMIE FOXX

STEALTH
www.SonyPictures.net

Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

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NOW SHOWING

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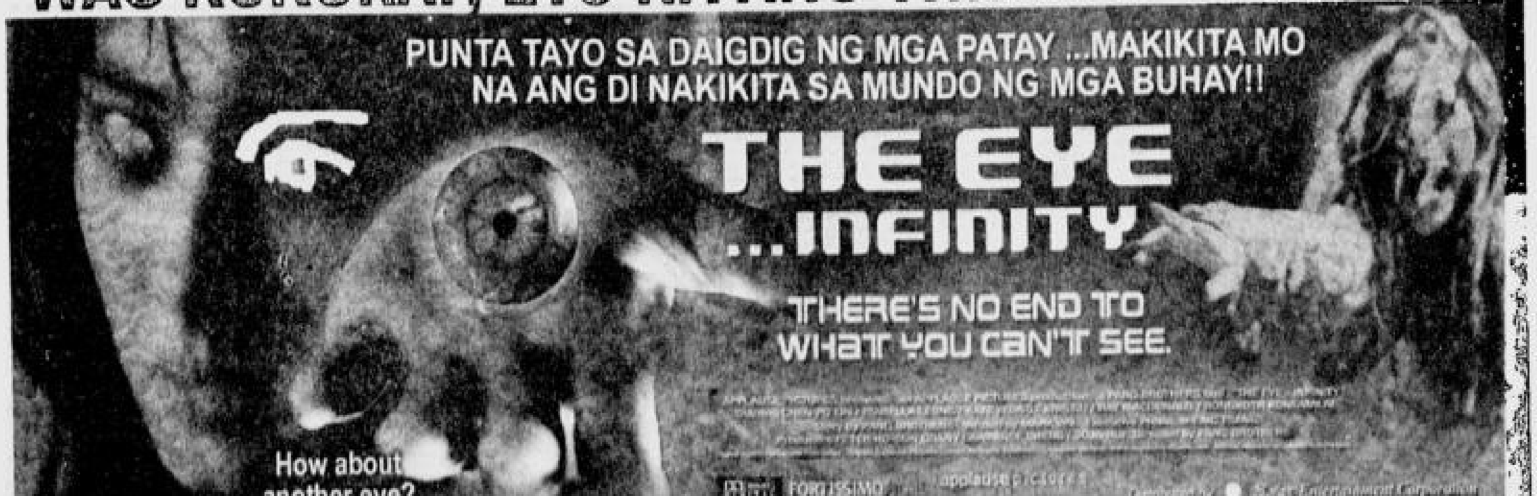
PUNTA TAYO SA DAIGDIG NG MGA PATAY ...MAKIKITA MO NA ANG DI NAKIKITA SA MUNDO NG MGA BUHAY!!
THE EYE ...INFINITY
THERE'S NO END TO WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE.
How about another eye?
FORTISSIMO
applause pictures

WARNING: The 'Rite Of Eight' presented in this film is the most powerful resort to make contact with the spiritual world. Psychics never doubt its authenticity so don't try it alone!!

THE COMPANY

20th anniversary concert series

SHOW TIME

THE CompanY celebrates its 20th anniversary in show business with a series of special concert performances and the release of their Anthology CD Box (a first of its kind in the country). The group returns to Hard Rock Cafe for a limited engagement tonight, and again on Aug. 11 and 18, with a repertoire of hot Latin beats to mainstream jazz and evergreen standards.

The CompanY's second single from the latest album, "Mahal Kong Radyo" (Pop Art Music/Viva Records) titled "Ang Huling El Bimbo" was originally recorded by the seminal alternative rock band of the '90s, The Eraserheads.

The song, written by former E-heads frontman, Ely Buendia, was given an arrangement by Marc Lopez that is reminiscent of the symphonic styling of Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody." Vocal arrangement was done by Moy Ortiz (who also sings the lead) and was produced by Margot Gallardo.

The CompanY will also stage an all-original Pilipino Music concert on Aug. 26 and 27 at the Philamlife Auditorium (UN Avenue, Manila) titled "Mahal Kong OPM."

Call 435-1108 or 435-1098.

Bacall chides Cruise for 'vulgar' behavior

NEW YORK—Screen legend Lauren Bacall has taken a caustic swipe at Tom Cruise, chiding the Hollywood star for his "vulgar" behavior and questioning his acting ability.

In an interview in the latest issue of Time Magazine, Bacall, 81, who has never been shy in voicing her opinion of fellow actors, made clear her distaste for Cruise's recent displays of emotion over his engagement to actress Katie Holmes.

"His whole behavior is so shocking," she said.

"It's inappropriate and vulgar and absolutely unacceptable to use your private life to sell anything commercially, but I think it's kind of a sickness," she added.

Cruise's red-carpet smooches with Holmes and a series of exuberant and very public expressions of love for his new fiance, led to criticism that the once very private star was seeking cheap publicity for his blockbuster movie "War of the Worlds" which was released in June.

What legend?

On one occasion, Cruise excitedly jumped up and down on talk show host Oprah Winfrey's couch as he revealed his adoration for Holmes, who was starring in her own summer blockbuster, "Batman Begins."

Bacall also had some less than complimentary words for Cruise's acting skills as she bemoaned the liberal way labels like "great" and "legend" were sprinkled over Hollywood stars.

"I mean the word 'great' stands for something," Bacall said. "When you talk about a great actor, you're not talking about Tom Cruise." The screen siren and widow of Humphrey Bogart had made similar remarks last year about Cruise's ex-wife, Nicole Kidman, with whom she worked on the film "Birth."

At the time, Bacall took exception to one reporter's description of Oscar-winner Kidman as a legend.

"She's not a legend," Bacall snapped. "She's a beginner. What is this 'legend'? She can't be a legend at whatever age she is. You have to be older." *AF*

A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
The story of enduring love set in World War I, directed by Academy Award-nominated Jean-Pierre Jeanet, starring Audrey Tautou ("Amelie") and featuring Academy Award-winner Jodie Foster. Available in a two-disc DVD for P595 and VCD for P275 in widescreen format.

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NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 STEALTH PG13 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15
CINEMA 2 CHARLIE & the CHOCOLATE FACTORY - GP 10:50, 1:35, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50
PROMENADE
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 CRASH R13 11:10, 1:25, 3:40, 5:55, 8:10, 10:25
CINEMA 4 YEAR OF THE YAO - PG13 12:15, 2:25, 4:35, 6:45, 9:00
CINEMA 5 CHARLIE & the CHOCOLATE FACTORY - GP 11:30, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES CALL 722-4496
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AUGUST 6 NONOY ZUNIGA "THE LOVE CONCERT" 9PM
September 2 & 3 MOJO FLY 8:30PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

SHANG CINEPLEX
① CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY MTRCB GP 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00 LMF
② CRASH MTRCB R-13 1:30, 4:05, 6:40, 9:15 LMF
③ WEDDING CRASHERS MTRCB PG-13 11:15, 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15
④ STEALTH MTRCB PG-13 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
PREMIERE THEATRE CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY MTRCB GP 1:00, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30 LMF
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1 CRASH 1:15, 3:40, 6:05, 8:30, 10:50 R-13
2 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY 11:05, 2:30, 5:20, 8:10, 11:00 GP
3 WEDDING CRASHERS 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30 PG-13
4 STEALTH 12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00 PG-13

POWER PLANT CINEMA
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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
CRASH R13 11:50, 2:25, 5:00, 7:35, 10:10
CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY GP 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY GP 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10
WEDDING CRASHERS PG13 12:35, 3:05, 5:35, 8:05, 10:30
THE ISLAND PG13 12:55, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
STEALTH PG13 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15

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FOR GUARANTEED SEATS
the podium 633-8976
1 CRASH 01:00FS/01:35MF/04:00/06:25 08:15LFS/09:00LMF/10:50END
2 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY 12:00FS/12:30MF/03:00 05:00LFS/05:30LMF/07:30END
cebu (032) 231-3876
1 MONSTER-IN-LAW [illegible]
2 THE ISLAND [illegible]
3 STEALTH [illegible]
METRO MANILA
SM MEGAMALL
1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 STEALTH
5 ARAHAN
6 THE ISLAND
7 YEAR OF THE YAO
8 CRASH
9 D' ANOTHERS
10 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
11 WEDDING CRASHERS
12 THE EYE INFINITY
SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 IF ONLY
NEW POLICE STORY
WEDDING CRASHERS
4 THE ISLAND
ARAHAN
6 D' ANOTHERS
STEALTH
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
9 THE EYE INFINITY
10 FANTASTIC FOUR
YEAR OF THE YAO
12 WAR OF THE WORLDS
SM NORTH EDSA
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
THE EYE INFINITY
STEALTH
D' ANOTHERS
WEDDING CRASHERS
ARAHAN
CRASH
8 ICE PRINCESS
SM CITY MANILA
CRASH
STEALTH
YEAR OF THE YAO
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
THE ISLAND
FANTASTIC FOUR
ARAHAN
IF ONLY
D' ANOTHERS
THE MACHINIST
WEDDING CRASHERS
12 THE EYE INFINITY
SM CITY STA MESA
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
YEAR OF THE YAO
STEALTH
CRASH
D' ANOTHERS
6 THE EYE INFINITY
WEDDING CRASHERS
FANTASTIC FOUR
9 THE ISLAND
SM CITY SOUTHMALL
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 YEAR OF THE YAO
THE MACHINIST
4 STEALTH
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
WEDDING CRASHERS
ARAHAN
8 THE ISLAND
9 D' ANOTHERS
10 THE EYE INFINITY
SM SAN LAZARO
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
STEALTH
YEAR OF THE YAO
THE EYE INFINITY
WEDDING CRASHERS
D' ANOTHERS
SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
D' ANOTHERS
STEALTH
YEAR OF THE YAO
SM CITY BICUTAN
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 YEAR OF THE YAO
4 STEALTH
LUZON
SM CITY PAMPANGA
STEALTH
2 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
3 THE ISLAND
4 IF ONLY
5 THE MACHINIST
6 D' ANOTHERS
SM CITY BACOOR
1 THE MACHINIST
2 WEDDING CRASHERS
3 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 THE ISLAND
STEALTH
6 D' ANOTHERS
THE EYE INFINITY
FANTASTIC FOUR
SM CITY DASMARINAS
THE MACHINIST
D' ANOTHERS
IF ONLY
STEALTH
SM CITY LUCENA
NEW POLICE STORY
D' ANOTHERS
THE JACKET
CREEP
SM CITY BAGUIO
1 SIN CITY
D' ANOTHERS
3 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
4 NEW POLICE STORY
SM CITY MARILAO
MONSTER-IN-LAW
D' ANOTHERS
THE MACHINIST
4 STEALTH
SM CITY BATANGAS
CAMPUS GHOST STORY
D' ANOTHERS
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
NEW POLICE STORY
VISAYAS AND MINDANAO
SM CITY CEBU
MONSTER-IN-LAW
THE ISLAND
3 STEALTH
4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
PREMONITION
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 D' ANOTHERS
8 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
SM CITY ILOILO
NEW POLICE STORY
RESERVED
IF ONLY
4 D' ANOTHERS
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
6 THE ISLAND
RESERVED
CAMPUS GHOST STORY
SM CITY DAVAO
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IF ONLY
D' ANOTHERS
CAMPUS GHOST STORY
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
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2 STEALTH
3 WEDDING CRASHERS
4 ARAHAN
5 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
6 CRASH
7 YEAR OF THE YAO
8 THE ISLAND
9 D' ANOTHERS
10 THE EYE INFINITY

ERMITA
536-7809 to 12

1 STEALTH
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 ARAHAN
4 CRASH
5 WEDDING CRASHERS
6 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
7 THE EYE INFINITY

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1 STEALTH
2 THE ISLAND
3 IF ONLY
4 THE EYE INFINITY
5 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
6 WEDDING CRASHERS
7 YEAR OF THE YAO
8 D' ANOTHERS

CITISQUARE MALABON
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1 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 NEW POLICE STORY
4 HERBIE FULLY LOADED

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2 STEALTH
3 CRASH
4 WEDDING CRASHERS

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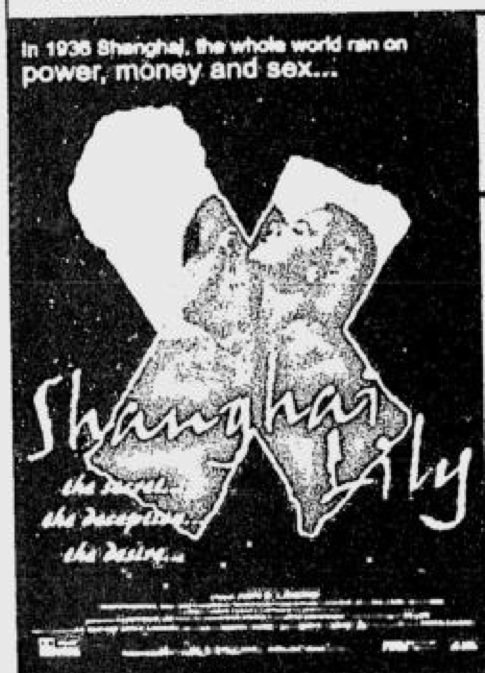
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2 D' ANOTHERS
3 EVIL DEAD
4 CAMPUS GHOST STORIES

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2 THE ISLAND
3 IF ONLY
4 D' ANOTHERS

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2 STEALTH
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2 STEALTH
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 WEDDING CRASHERS

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2 D' ANOTHERS
3 SHANGHAI LILY
4 THE ISLAND
5 STEALTH
6 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

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1 MONSTER-IN-LAW
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3 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
4 THE ISLAND
5 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
6 NEW POLICE STORY

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GB 3 Ground Level

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Ayala MUSEUM

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G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 STEALTH	2 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY	3 THX CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 CRASH	5 THE YEAR OF THE YAO	6 D' ANOTHERS	7 WEDDING CRASHERS
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 D' ANOTHERS	2 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX WEDDING CRASHERS GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 CRASH GUARANTEED SEATS	4 STEALTH GUARANTEED SEATS	5 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY	2 WEDDING CRASHERS		
	3 STEALTH	4 CRASH	5 D' ANOTHERS	
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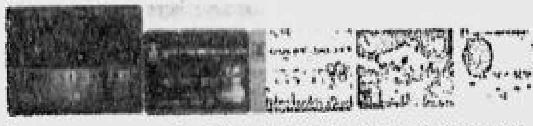


Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-364, Series of 2005

Why some new filmmakers' movies don't quite work

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

I'VE written a lot about the good films and positive results of last month's Cinemalaya indie film festival. Today, let's focus on the efforts that *didn't* quite make the grade in terms of quality and pertinence, hopefully to come up with lessons that will benefit other new filmmakers who will be trying their luck at next year's festival:

To my mind, four of the nine full-length movies that were produced for the film fest suffered from problems that prevented them from ending up as creditable productions. Some of their storyline and scripts had been promising (I judged all levels of the competition), so it was disappointing to see them failing to realize their full potential.

What were some of the inhibiting or distracting factors that negated their promise? First, lack of directorial organization, visualization and editing sense.

Some people are simply better scriptwriters than directors. They can't fully vivify the good points in their scripts so that they are fully realized, not just on paper, but on the big screen.

As directors, they should know which scenes to highlight, and which to play briskly, or even eliminate for the purpose of clearer storytelling. They should also remind themselves to avoid repetition, or saying pretty much the same thing in different ways.

This repetitiveness results in yet another common problem: excessive length. Some new filmmakers think it's OK to shoot a movie that is almost two and a half hours long. They forget that many feature films these days run for only 90 minutes.

As directors, they shouldn't fall in love with their material so much that they keep hitting their audience on the head with it. Suggestion and intimation are better than relentless iteration.

To make better movies, self-absorbed filmmakers should remind themselves that they're at the service of their audience, not themselves. So, brevity, clarity, accessibility and empathy are the cinematic virtues they should do their darndest to acquire.

Also, avoid long, languid, artistic and symbolic sequences that are more poetry than cinema. New directors should stress the importance of editing to energize their work, and ruthlessly cut out footage that, while truly lovely, impedes the dynamic progression of the stories they tell.

> Some people are simply better scriptwriters than directors

They should also have a keener sense of the requisites of feature filmmaking. While indie movies don't require star value, you should at least choose for your leads unknowns who don't turn your audience off.

Don't cast people just because they're your friends, or are readily available to you. Cast as the role requires, period.

Finally, new filmmakers should realize that, when they get to the full-length mode, they can no longer play around and entertain themselves with their private notions and conceits. Feature-length filmmaking is cinema at its most public and rigorous, and heretofore dilettante artists have a lot of growing up to do.

'The Emperor's New Clothes'

Repertory Philippines and the City of Makati present the children's musical "The Emperor's New Clothes" starting Aug. 6 at Greenbelt 1. The production is directed by **Joy Virata** and choreographed by **Jaime del Prado**.

The well-known tale for kids by **Hans Christian Andersen** has been brought to the stage with book and lyrics by **Jim Eiler**, and music by Eiler and **Jeanny Bargy**. The musical adaptation tells the satirical tale of a vain emperor who loves to dress in elegant and beautiful clothes. He changes clothes almost every hour!

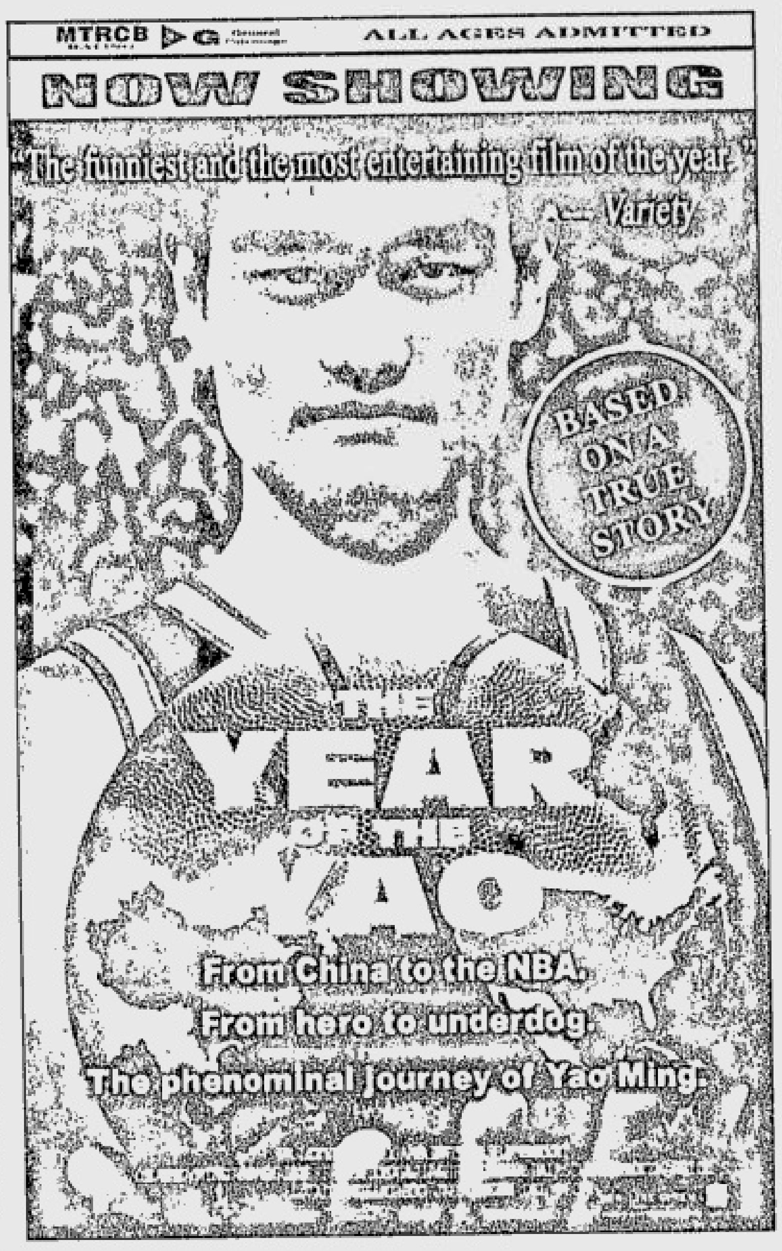
Word about his obsession spreads beyond his kingdom, and two con men, Mr. Stitch and Mr. Sew, decide to take advantage of it: They present the emperor with a special gift—an exquisitely beautiful "magic" suite of clothes, invisible to all but the wisest of men!

Of course, the gift doesn't come for free. In exchange, the con men ask for a bag of gold. Will the emperor and his followers discover the tricksters' real plan? Call 887-0710 or 891-9999.

'Gulity or Innocent'

Discovery Channel will telecast an 18-hour series, "Guilty or Innocent?," starting Saturday, Aug. 13 at 9 p.m. Every episode takes viewers on a journey of discovery as cases already settled in court unravel on the screen.

The reality-based series takes the audience from certainty to doubt about whether justice was served in each case. At each trial, someone had been convicted, but his guilt is now in serious doubt as respected legal organization investigate and build evidence for appeals or pleas to reopen the case.



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JAUN GENTLEMAN WITH UNMATCHED STRENGTH
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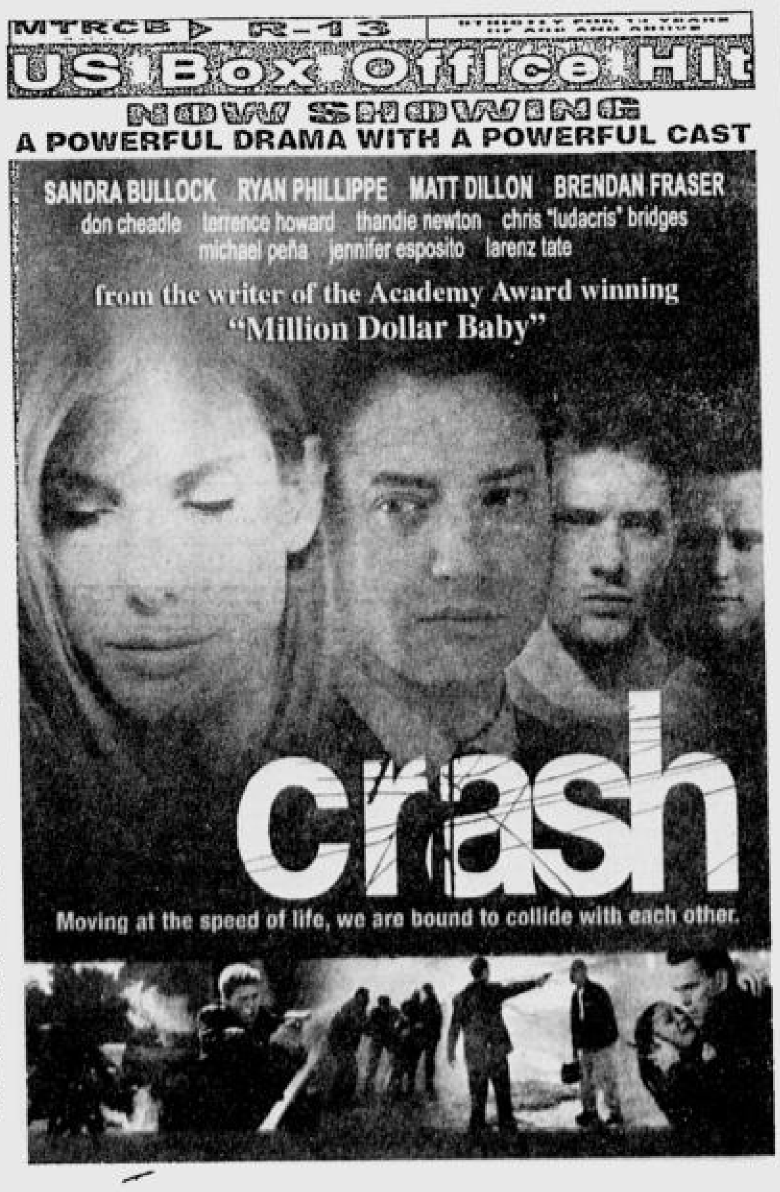

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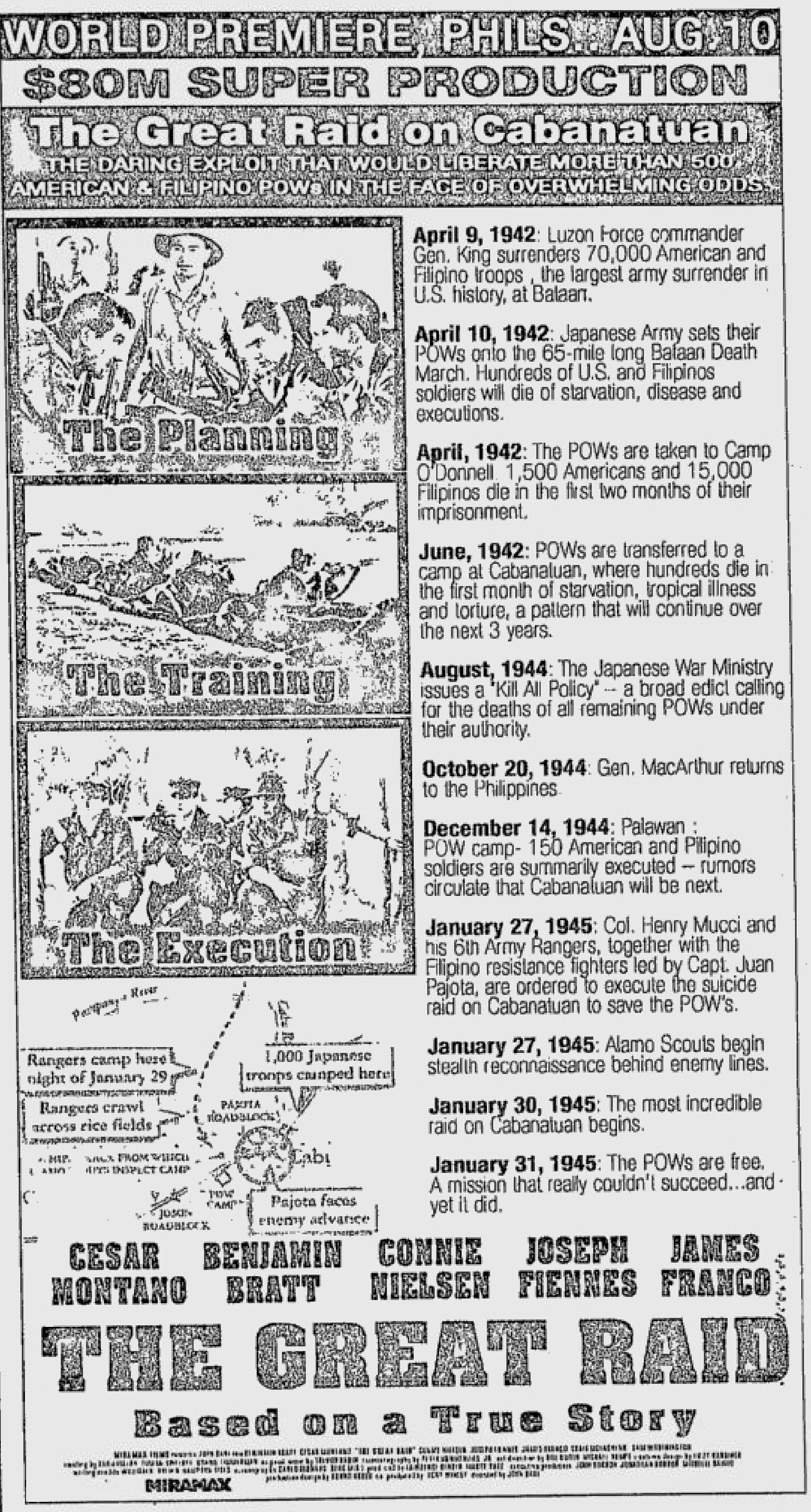
michael peña jennifer esposito larenz tate
from the writer of the Academy Award winning "Million Dollar Baby"
crash
Moving at the speed of life, we are bound to collide with each other.

QUIRKY DUET
...in offbeat England. Comedians Matt Lucas and David Williams again dispense quick wit and dark humor in the award-winning series, "Little Britain," Sundays at 10 p.m. on Star World. Season 2 builds on characters introduced earlier and throws in a few more misfits, including a new friend for the transvestite Emily.



WORLD PREMIERE PHILS.: AUG.10
$80M SUPER PRODUCTION
The Great Raid on Cabanatuan
THE DARING EXPLOIT THAT WOULD LIBERATE MORE THAN 500 AMERICAN & FILIPINO POWs IN THE FACE OF OVERWHELMING ODDS
The Planning
The Training
The Execution
Pampanga River
Rangers camp here night of January 29
Rangers crawl across rice fields
1,000 Japanese troops camped here
PAJOTA ROADBLOCK
Cabu
POW CAMP
JOSON ROADBLOCK
Pajota faces enemy advance

April 9, 1942: Luzon Force commander Gen. King surrenders 70,000 American and Filipino troops , the largest army surrender in U.S. history, at Bataan.

April 10, 1942: Japanese Army sets their POWs onto the 65-mile long Bataan Death March. Hundreds of U.S. and Filipinos soldiers will die of starvation, disease and executions.

April, 1942: The POWs are taken to Camp O'Donnell. 1,500 Americans and 15,000 Filipinos die in the first two months of their imprisonment.

June, 1942: POWs are transferred to a camp at Cabanatuan, where hundreds die in the first month of starvation, tropical illness and torture, a pattern that will continue over the next 3 years.

August, 1944: The Japanese War Ministry issues a 'Kill All Policy' -- a broad edict calling for the deaths of all remaining POWs under their authority.

October 20, 1944: Gen. MacArthur returns to the Philippines.

December 14, 1944: Palawan : POW camp- 150 American and Pilipino soldiers are summarily executed -- rumors circulate that Cabanatuan will be next.

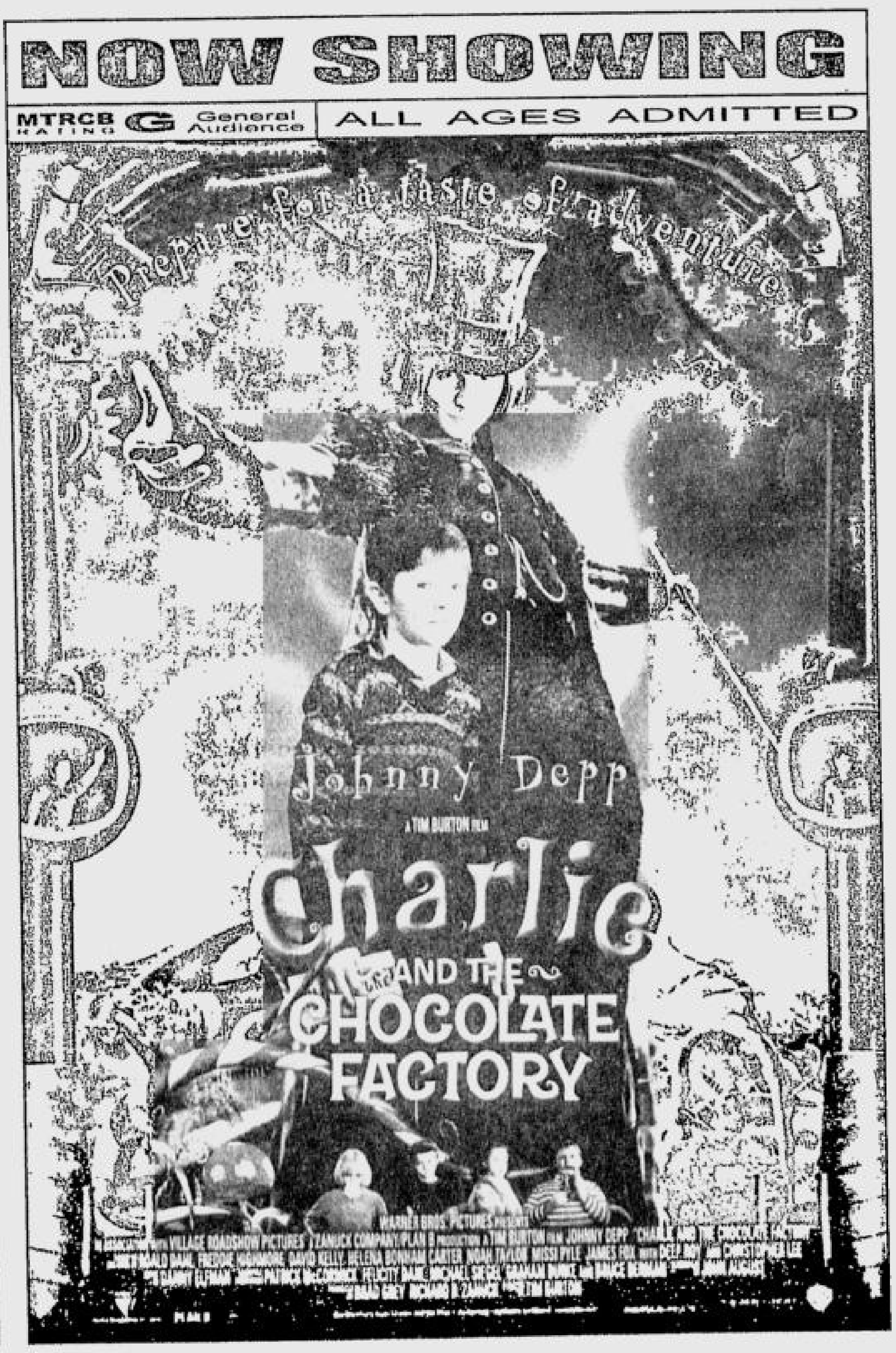
January 27, 1945: Col. Henry Mucci and his 6th Army Rangers, together with the Filipino resistance fighters led by Capt. Juan Pajota, are ordered to execute the suicide raid on Cabanatuan to save the POW's.

January 27, 1945: Alamo Scouts begin stealth reconnaissance behind enemy lines.

January 30, 1945: The most incredible raid on Cabanatuan begins.

January 31, 1945: The POWs are free. A mission that really couldn't succeed...and yet it did.

CESAR MONTANO BENJAMIN BRATT CONNIE NIELSEN JOSEPH FIENNES JAMES FRANCO
THE GREAT RAID
Based on a True Story
MIRAMAX



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Producer says metro film fest 'still taking public for a ride'

By Marinel R. Cruz

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

"THE NEW rules have destroyed the true meaning of the film festival. With the kind of movies that are bound to be shown in December, this should be called Metro Manila Christmas Festival," independent film producer Joji Alonso told INQUIRER Entertainment on Monday.

Alonso was one of three movie producers who last year filed a complaint against the Metro Manila Film Festival selection committee. She claimed the committee violated its own rules to "favor certain producers" over the others.

"This year, five of the seven entries are of the fantasy-horror-comedy genre. What do you expect from such movies?" said Alonso in a phone interview. "The best film fests abroad ... are always a mixture of everything, not dominated by one producer, one director, or one genre."

In a letter to festival overall chair Bayani Fernando, who is also chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority, Alonso said four of the eight entries last year "were productions of the Monteverde group," referring to Regal Entertainment matriarch Lily Monteverde.

Three of those films were made by Joel Lamangan, who is set to direct two this year—"Ako Legal Wife" (Regal Entertainment) and "Nasaan Ka Nang Kailangan Kita?" (Good Harvest, a sister company of Regal).

Loopholes

The two other entries from Monteverde this year are "Shake, Rattle and Roll" (Regal Entertainment) and "Mulawin" (Monteverde's co-production with GMA Films).

Alonso lamented: "Gone are the days when people looked forward to watching the best among the best in film festivals. I miss watching movies like 'Kisapmata,' 'Insiang' and 'Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang.' People keep saying the industry is dying. How do we save it when we're not given enough choices? We really should all help it grow."

In an earlier interview, MMFF executive committee member Wilson Tieng pointed out that loopholes found in the festival's rules and regulations should be plugged to avoid protest.

Last month, Fernando announced that the MMFF had revised its rules. The new rules lifted the limitations to the number of films that a single producer could enter in the festival. They also included "box-office appeal" (40 percent) as a criterion for selecting the Best Picture winner.

Consultation

According to Alonso, the MMDA recently hosted a consultative assembly with industry people on how to improve the film fest. "[Fernando] said he would take our suggestions into consideration, but that the final say would still come from the executive committee. They made it appear that the committee was open to change. What kind of change?"

She added: "What the committee did, was to legitimize the things we complained about last year. Up to now, the MMFF continues to take the public for a ride."

Seiko Film's Robbie Tan last year claimed that a theater chain was reserved in July 2004 for the public screening of MegaVision Films' "Sigaw" in September 2004, "under the account of Regal."

Vic del Rosario of Viva Films said Monteverde herself negotiated for the services of actress Anne Curtis, an exclusive Viva talent, for "Sigaw."

"Sigaw," starring Angel Locsin and Richard Gutierrez, was one of the four entries linked to Monteverde.

Ryan knows where his heart lies now

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

LIKE the true gentleman that he is, **Ryan Agoncillo** did not retaliate when the mother of his ex-girlfriend claimed in public that he had not formally split up with her daughter. Instead, Ryan issued a brief statement saying that he resolved matters with all people concerned a long time ago and that he wished they could all just be happy for one another.

He was not defensive at all. He knows where his heart is—certainly not in two places at the same time. Perhaps Ryan's ex did not tell her mom everything. Sometimes mothers are just the last to know.

Ryan would not have gone to the United States with girlfriend **Judy Ann Santos** had there been still no closure between himself and his ex, who happens to be in the US, to avoid a possible confrontation. But since his conscience was clear, he had no apprehension about traveling with Juday.

In fact, the sister of his ex toured Ryan and Juday around. I heard that this sister was upset that her mom issued such statements about Ryan. I guess the mom was just truly misled. You can't stop her from being concerned, though. A mother is a mother is a mother.

The US trip strengthened Ryan and Juday's bond all the more. The pictures on this spread says it all. And if this is not enough proof of how blissfully in love they are, catch the couple in "Maalaala Mo Kaya's" romantic episode tonight on ABS-CBN. No need for Juday to ask Ryan, "*Maalaala mo kaya* your ex?"

Matet's baby dies

My heart goes out to my godsister **Matet** for losing her second baby. I saw Matet grow up, so when she had her first, I felt like my own baby was having a baby. We used to hang out a lot, talking till the wee hours about teenage angst and family problems. She sure had her wild crazy days but motherhood surely mellowed Matet. This loss is bound to change her even more.

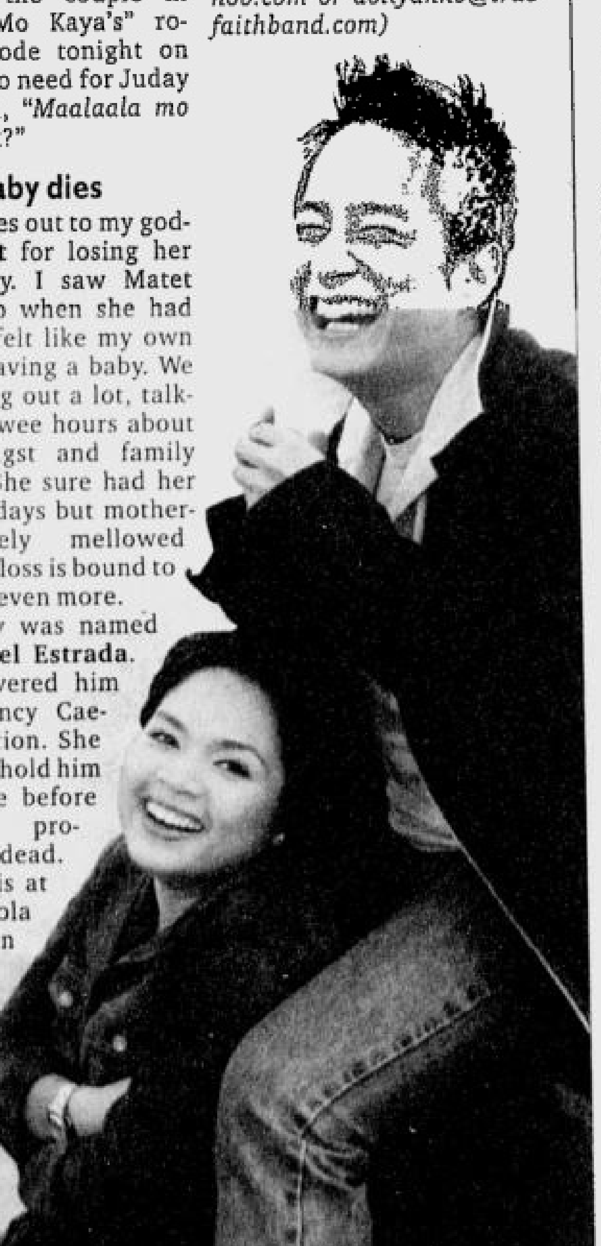
The baby was named **Juan Miguel Estrada**. Matet delivered him by emergency Caesarean Section. She was able to hold him for a while before he was pronounced dead. The wake is at the Loyola Chapels in Guadalupe.

I don't know if it's harder to lose a parent than to lose a child, but for sure there is love even after death. Be strong, Matet. We both now have our own angels (your baby and my mom) in heaven to watch over us.

Heard from my US source that **Mikee Arroyo** opened an account with Bank of America in Brisbane, California. The beleaguered presidential son was seen coming out of the manager's office with his wife. No big deal. It must be for their kids' future. But then again, at the (dollar) rate things are going, you'll never know...

Angel Locsin and **Oyo Boy Sotto** were spotted at the Festival Supermall in Alabang last Sunday. It was the last day of the midyear sale. The lovers were oblivious to the hordes of shoppers gawking at them as they strolled hand in hand. They caught more attention than all the flashy store windows. It's as if they were reminding the busy shoppers that money can't buy them love.

(For feedback, e-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com)



JUDAY and Ryan in the US recently

Charo raps 'The Buzz'

By Nini Valera

CHARO Santos-Concio, ABS-CBN executive vice president for Entertainment, reprimanded the staff of "The Buzz" for airing live an interview with controversial actress Rosanna Roces last Sunday, according to sources.

Santos-Concio reportedly felt the interview should have been taped to control the content, in which Roces accused Jolo Revilla, son of Sen. Bong Revilla of beating up the actress' daughter, Grace Adriano.

Jolo, 17, and Grace, 16, have a son out of wedlock, Jose Gabriel, born early this year. Grace supposedly broke off with Jolo shortly after the birth of their son.

The controversial interview was conducted by Kris Aquino, Boy Abunda and Cristy Fermin, main hosts of "The Buzz."

Osang's litany

Aquino was supposedly upset about how the issue was being handled and had wanted to stop the interview when she felt it was getting out of hand.

In contrast, a taped interview of Sen. Bong Revilla on the issue was a message of sobriety to Roces. The senator said in the footage, which was aired on the same episode of "The Buzz," that family issues should be discussed in private and not in media.

During Sunday's show, Roces also alleged that Jolo's older brother Bryan was hooked on Ecstasy, a designer drug, and that the senator was keeping a young woman. Roces said Revilla had given the woman a beauty parlor and a Honda CRV.

The actress and former television talk show host also dragged former Sen. Ramon Revilla into the current controversy, saying that the older Revilla had a 19-year-old girlfriend.

Roces is apparently building a case against the Revillas in an attempt to have the child's last name, Bautista, Jolo's real surname, changed to Adriano, Roces' and Grace's last name.

Before Jose Gabriel was born, the Revillas and Roces agreed that the child would bear his father's last name, Bautista, in accordance with the revised Family Code of the Philippines.

Ironically, the amendment to the code was penned by the older senator Revilla. Before it was revised, the Code stipulated that a child born out of wedlock could only bear its mother's name.

Until two weeks ago, Jolo and the rest of the Revillas enjoyed the child's weekend visits to their home. But these visits stopped recently after Grace supposedly posted blog entries on the Friendster website alleging that her son's father was really not Jolo, but a certain Joshua Stephen, her ex-boyfriend.

She also wrote that she was fed up with her life and wants it to have a purpose. The blogs were published in a tabloid, and have since been erased.

In other TV interviews last week, Roces also vowed that she would not allow the Revillas to see the child. She said she would shoot it out with anyone who attempted to see the baby.

Money angle

Friends of the Revillas surmised that Roces and Grace only wanted more child support. At first, Jolo was giving P10,000 a month, but this was raised to P15,000 after Grace hired a nursemaid and a laundry woman.

Jolo is set to pursue his studies in the United States this September. He was an aspiring actor when news of the pregnancy broke. He has been out-of-work since then. But he is supposed to be in this year's Metro Manila Film Festival movie "Exodus," starring his father Bong, his grandfather Ramon, and his son Jose Gabriel. The movie was not finished, and is still being shot.

Grace's pregnancy earlier caused a show biz scandal. Roces accused her former manager Lolit Solis and former best friend, cosmetic surgeon Vicki Belo, of spreading lies against Grace. Roces repeatedly denied her daughter's condition, but eventually admitted late last year that Grace was indeed pregnant by Jolo.

The fight between Roces and Belo triggered a libel case filed by the doctor against the actress, who allegedly referred to Belo in various media interviews as a mere aerobics instructor. The parties were supposed to meet in court last week to discuss an out of court settlement, but Roces failed to show up.

DID Charo Santos-Concio lose her cool? JOAN BONDOC

Even an upset Kris reportedly wanted to stop Osang interview

AQUINO: Oh, no! BETOY JOHNSON

ROCES: Unstoppable

ABS-CBN's official statement

ABS-CBN issued this official statement on Tuesday:

"[The network] recognizes its responsibility to its audiences and adheres to the accepted Kapisanan ng mga Brodkasters (KBP) industry standards of fair play and public decency in all its broadcasts. Even prior to MTRCB's calling the network's attention [to] Ms Rosanna Roces' interview on 'The Buzz,' ABS-CBN [had] already taken [it] upon itself to impose self-regulatory measures and practice self-censorship among its talents and programs. As per agreement with MTRCB, Ms Roces' future interviews with the Network will henceforth be pre-taped."

Lawyer Ernesto C. Perez II meanwhile sent a letter to media organizations appealing for a consideration of the rights of Jolo and Grace as "minor children."

As Jolo's counsel, Perez cited Republic Act No. 7610, otherwise known as "Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act," which provides that "the best interests of children shall be the paramount consideration in all actions concerning them."

Perez said the continued mention of the names of Jolo and Grace and "the current situation" in media reports, have "ripened into psychological abuse that have affected both minors." *Nini Valera*

Solon is glad 'Great Raid' puts face on RP war vets

SEN. Richard Gordon, co-chair of the World War II 60th Anniversary Philippine Organizing Committee, on Tuesday hailed a Hollywood movie depicting the heroism of Filipino guerrillas and American soldiers in liberating 500 prisoners of war from a Japanese camp in Cabanatuan City during World War II.

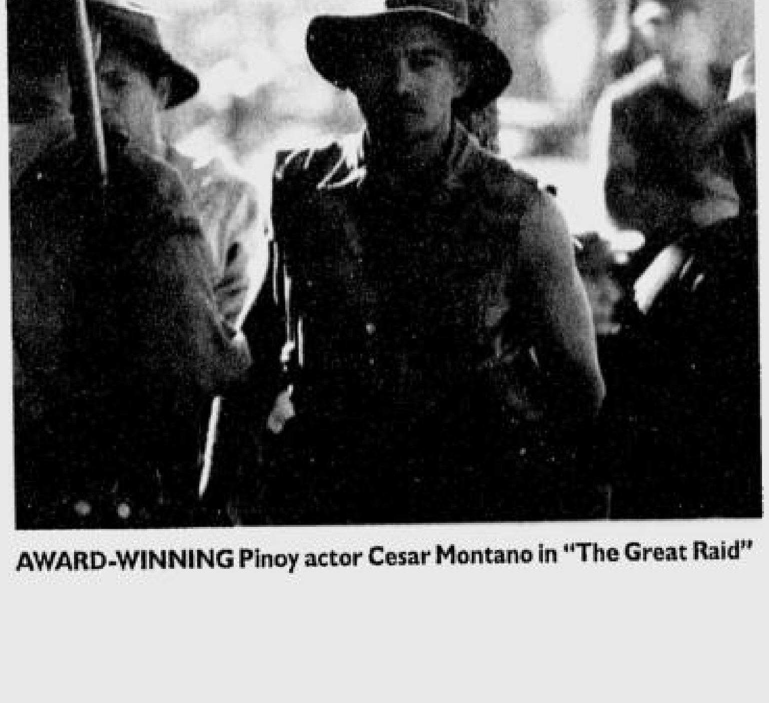
A statement sent to media organizations also said Gordon earlier urged the film producers to make a special effort to promote the film among Fil-Am communities in the United States. It could redirect the attention of the US Congress to the veterans' full equity bill, Gordon said.

The movie entitled "The Great Raid," is about to be released in the US and will be shown next week in Philippine theaters. Gordon said the film put a face on Filipino veterans of World War II who were still seeking equal recognition with GI counterparts for their role in fighting the Japanese forces in World War II.

Based on the best-selling book "Ghost Soldiers" by Hampton Sides, the Miramax Films production directed by John Dahl stars Benjamin Bratt, James Franco, Connie Nielsen, Joseph Fiennes, Mark Consuelos and Cesar Montano.

Producer Marty Katz reportedly responded to Gordon's suggestions with enthusiasm. Gordon and Katz met last Feb. 7 during a special screening in Makati.

In an e-mail dated July 26, Katz said he had assigned two Miramax senior executives in marketing and publicity—Martha Morrison and Julie Fontaine—to oversee worldwide promotions.



AWARD-WINNING Pinoy actor Cesar Montano in "The Great Raid"

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2005
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

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Assistant Editor **Corrie S. Narisma**

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From Pagudpud to Sorsogon
1114 km
on just one full tank.
Xtra Power for extra miles.
As certified by the Car Awards Group, Inc.
PETRON

Trade deficit swells to $4.36B

Revised figures paint far worse picture of RP, say analysts

THE GOVERNMENT on Tuesday drastically revised its trade deficit figures for the past three years, painting a far worse picture of the country's economy and trading position than first thought.

The heavy revisions on imports and exports are expected to fuel existing doubts about the reliability of the government's data, analysts said.

According to the National Statistics Office (NSO) the 2004 trade deficit was changed to $4.36 billion from the previously stated $713 million.

The 2003 deficit was revised to $4.24 billion, up from $1.27 billion. For 2002, the trade deficit was revised to $4.03 billion from the previously reported $218 million.

Officials said they also expect to revise trade data from January to May this year to reflect newly included export figures and a new method of computing import data.

The country earlier reported a trade surplus of $398 million in the first five months of this year.

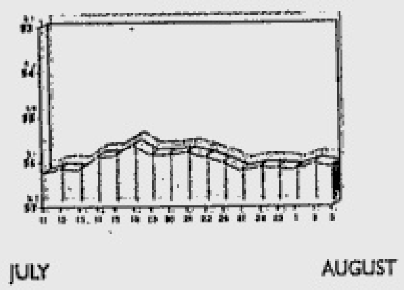
Economists said the dramatic changes in

TRADE/ B2

THE COLOR OF MONEY A money changer in Manila hands out greenbacks to a customer. According to analysts, changes in figures bloating the country's trade deficit are expected to fuel existing doubts about the reliability of the government's data. AP

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

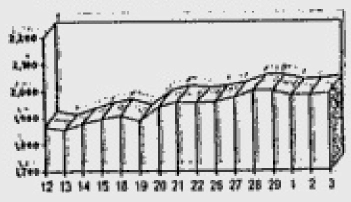
P 56.095 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 3, 2005

¥ 111.65 = $1
As of 3 p.m., Aug. 3, 2005

GOLD: $431.70-432.20
per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 2, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close 0.15% higher

SHARE prices yesterday closed 0.15 percent higher, driven mostly by sustained interest in Philippine Long Distance Telephone, dealers said.

For the second straight session, investors stayed largely on the sidelines ow

SHARES/ B2

WHAT'S INSIDE

Globe profit down 68% in Q2 /B2

Peso to remain fragile, traders say /B3

GDP growth likely to miss target

By Michelle V. Remo

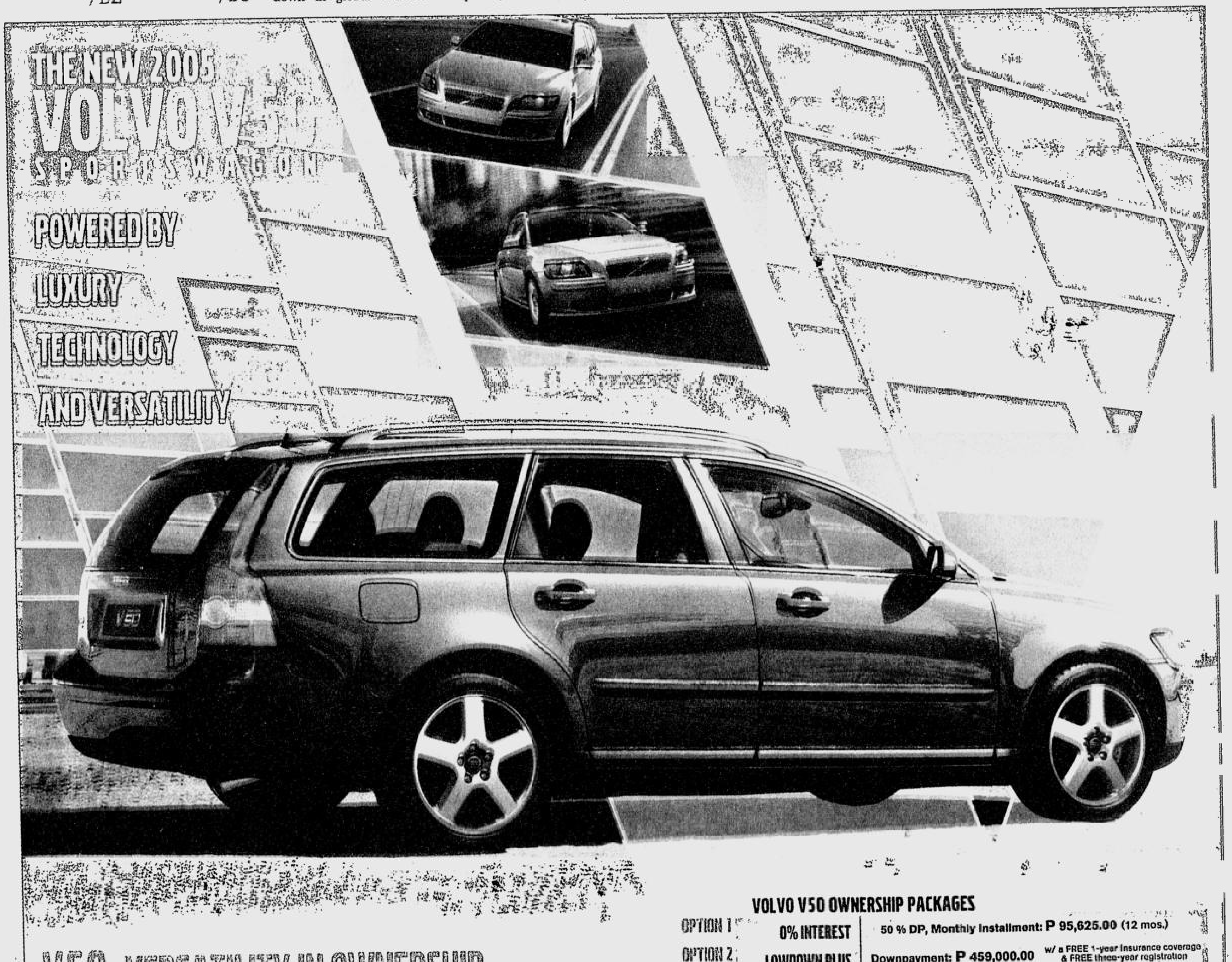
THE COUNTRY'S economic growth this year is likely to fall below government expectations amid a slowdown in global demand and a host of internal factors upsetting the nation in the past few months.

According to the projections of the Ateneo Center for Economic Research and Development, the country's gross domestic product may only grow to between 4.5 and 5.3 percent in 2005.

The forecast is lower than the government's official goal of a GDP growth of anywhere between 5.3 and 6.3 percent by year-end.

Former Neda chief Cielito Habito, who now heads the Ateneo think tank, attributed the forecast to external and internal factors, such as

GDP/ B3



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VOLVO for life

Globe profit down 68% in Q2

By Clarissa S. Batino

GLOBE Telecom Inc., the country's second largest telecommunications company, suffered a huge blow in the second quarter after its net income dropped 68 percent to P1.19 billion—its lowest quarterly profit since the last quarter of 2001—due to higher income tax provisions, less revenue and foreign exchange losses.

Its chief rival Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., on the other hand, is expected to report today more than P7.5 billion in recurring earnings in the second quarter from almost P7 billion in the first quarter, and P6.8 billion in the same period last year.

PLDT, a source said, would "surprise" the market with "unexpected profit numbers," contrary to expectations of analysts that earnings of local telcos soured.

Globe's second quarter profit was less than half the P3 billion in profit it recorded in the first quarter and the P3.84 billion it posted in the same period last year.

Its first half revenue of P4.2 billion was down 38 percent from P6.8 billion in the same period last year.

Sales, Globe admitted, failed to keep pace with increasing costs and expenses.

Service revenue in the first half stood at P26.73 billion, only 2 percent more than the P26.17 billion a year ago, while costs and expenses went up 13 percent at P23.14 billion from P20.47 billion in the first semester of 2004.

"We need to re-engineer our cost structures by finding new and better ways of doing things," said Globe president Gerardo Ablaza Jr. in a statement.

Marketing expenses, in particular, rose 15 percent, and network operating and depreciation expenses went up 21 percent.

During the second quarter alone, Globe's revenue slid to P13.27 from P13.35 billion in the same period last year, while costs grew to P12.5 billion against P10.23 billion in the second quarter of 2004.

ABLAZA

Including Touch Mobile, the joint venture between Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecom ended June with 13.6 million subscribers against 12.9 million in the first quarter.

Touch Mobile, its other wireless brand, had been aggressively courting customers with cheaper rates.

Thus, it added 433,000 new subscribers during the second quarter to bring its base to almost 2 million in the first three months.

Globe blamed foreign exchange losses coupled with P1.2 billion in income tax provision for 88 percent of the drop in profits.

The peso weakened to P56.177 during the quarter from P54.747 to a dollar.

Ablaza said the key to Globe's competitiveness was to accelerate the rollout of its network.

As of end-June, Globe's cellular sites stood at 4,555, up 55 percent from 2,933 a year ago. It now covers 90 percent of the country and 96 percent of the population.

The improving coverage, according to Ablaza, would allow the company to go deeper into the mass market for long-term prospects.

Smart, Piltel freed from local taxes

THE COURT of Appeals has exempted Smart Communications Inc. from local franchise taxes.

This came after the CA dismissed the case filed by Makati City, which had been pressing Smart to pay P312 million in franchise taxes.

In a statement, Smart said the 11th Division of the Court of Appeals deemed the case "abandoned and dismissed" after Makati City failed to file a petition for review.

Last April, the Supreme Court upheld a similar decision of the Court of Appeals exempting Piltel from paying franchise taxes to Makati City.

In January this year, the Iloilo City court similarly ruled that Smart was exempt from paying local franchise and business taxes worth P764,545.29 for 1997 to 2001, inclusive of surcharges and penalties.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.; on the other hand, is contesting about P4.5 billion in franchise taxes and other assessments that local governments all over the country were trying to collect, according to its financial statement last year.

PLDT said that in most cases, local governments computed tax using national sales instead of sales within their respective jurisdictions.

The local governments also made claims for periods going back more than five years. *Clarissa S. Batino*

Sugar and spies

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

LET us assume that, among the more than 80 million Filipinos, both here and abroad, both ladies and gentlemen, and whatever, only Gloriaetta can fix the economy.

That is, of course, the media line that the Palace is trying to force-feed on us at this time of serious threat to our national security.

"Serious threat," to the guys down here in my barangay, means the scandal after scandal that this cute administration of Gloriaetta must try to cover up.

Similarly, "national security" can only refer to the august objective of the very survival of this cute administration in the face of all those scandals.

If only Gloriaetta can fix the economy, why is this cute administration dribbling around some 4,000 or so sugar planters on a particular issue?

It turns out that issue is only about… well, another scandal.

* * *

FROM bits and pieces of info that I gathered from the sugar sector, the issue revolves around the Bangko Sentral and the semi-government Philippine National Bank, or PNB.

It seems that a group in the sugar sector begged Gloriaetta to look into a certain multi-billion-peso top-secret deal between the Bangko Sentral and the PNB.

Supposedly, according to our spies in the sugar sector, the top-secret deal will put thousands of sugar farm owners—and the tens of thousands of workers in those farms, plus their families—at the mercy of PNB only a few years from now.

By that time, unfortunately for the thousands of sugar farm owners and their workers, the government will no longer have anything to do with the bank.

As everybody knows, except perhaps the action stars in the Senate who are now way past the prime, this cute administration is selling the government's entire interest in the bank.

Thus, when the sugar group asked the Palace to take a look at that top-secret deal, they wanted this cute but besieged administration to review the selling price of the PNB shares under the privatization.

You know—maybe, just maybe, it should be much higher!

In other words, if their appeal to Gloriaetta would amount to anything, the sugar group only wants this cute unpopular administration to get the most out of the PNB privatization.

After all, the government seems to be broke.

* * *

WHADAYANO—the issue brought up by the sugar group to Gloriaetta's attention also fell on wax-filled ears at the Palace.

And, based on the media line of the Palace, Gloriaetta is the only one who can fix our sliding economy while the rest of the world is booming.

Yeah right, and you can rely on karaoke bar girls to fix any leak in your personal plumbing!

And so what else is new, right?

In an incredibly decisive decision on a scandalous issue, supposedly involving a multibillion-peso top-secret deal between two government outfits, and affecting the price of the government's sale of its dwindling assets, the Palace made… well, an assist pass.

It passed on the issue to the other government offices, namely, the Department of Agriculture, the Bangko Sentral, and the PNB.

Subsequently, after the dazzling assist pass from the Palace, according to my sugar industry spies, some low-level bureaucrats in those offices just dribbled the sugar group around.

They all said they could not do anything about it. And as usual, they offered some reasons—i.e. alibi—that clashed with each other.

Is this just another case of the government's right hand not knowing what the left is doing? Or is there something else, such as a grand conspiracy somewhere?

* * *

FROM what I gathered, it seems that the top-secret deal between the Bangko Sentral and the PNB took place some eight years ago, or sometime in 1997.

In other words, that was still during the Ramos administration, known in my clan as the "Kuya Eddie" administration.

The top-secret deal took its official form in a top-secret "memorandum of agreement," which in government lingo is also known as MOA—much like the sound from a cow in heat.

The MOA, as I said, was between the Bangko Sentral and the PNB, which at that time was not yet semi-privatized, with the government still owning and running the bank, and only a portion of the shares issued in a public offering.

In 1997, the head of the Bangko Sentral was former Bangko Sentral Governor Gabriel Singson, awarded Management Man of the Year by the prestigious Management Association of the Philippines, for his stint at the Bangko Sentral.

* * *

BY coincidence, Singson was also the president of the PNB before he went back to the central bank as governor.

Singson now happens to be a highly sought-after financial adviser to big business, a particular favorite of some taipans.

Interestingly enough, the president of the PNB at that time was Peter Favila, who is now the secretary of trade and industry, taking the position after the mass resignation of Cabinet members who were apparently disgusted with this cute insincere administration.

But then again, the one in charge of privatization over the Department of Finance is none other than Undersecretary Gabriel "Jay" Singson Jr. You guessed it—he is the son of Gabriel, the ex-governor.

Now, as if he was responding to accusation of possible conflict of interest in the PNB privatization, former Finance Secretary Cesar "Hyatt 10" Purisima reportedly said that he trusted the Singsons.

No, based on reports, Purisima did not see any conflict. Nobody could say if he knew about the top-secret deal.

* * *

BASED on word in the sugar sector, the top-secret deal under that top-secret MOA should give a multibillion-peso windfall some eight years from now to whoever buys the government holdings in PNB today.

Meanwhile, thousands of owners of sugar farms all over the country will be at the mercy of whoever that buyer will be.

Nobody can say as yet whether the top-secret deal under that top-secret MOA was designed to make the floundering PNB a bit attractive to buyers.

Word from inside the Lucio Tan group, which became part owner of PNB during the time of the man named Band … Wrist Band … is that if the bid price in the full privatization of PNB is too high, the group will mostly likely sell its holdings together with those of the government.

Well, these are tough times for banking. For instance, let us say that the PNB privatization fetches P20 billion. The bank can earn for the buyer something like P200 million a year, or even P300 million, tops.

Using only your fingers, compute how long before the buyer recovers the investment, assuming that he is still alive by then.

* * *

STILL, that top-secret deal under that top-secret MOA could also be a way for the government to pressure the sugar planters to sell their land.

You see, under the law, the sugar farms are supposed to be covered by the failed land reform program, featuring the likes of Hacienda Luisita, which is owned by the family of Tita Cory, who is no longer a friend of this cute friendship-challenged administration.

Trade deficit swells to $4.36B

From page B1

the 2002-2004 data underlined concerns about Philippine economic data after previous major revisions, but were unlikely to affect markets.

"If [the] past trade deficits are that much bigger, and if the same problem is carried into 2005, all our economic estimates will change," said Wong Keng Siong, economist at Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi in Singapore. "It is a case of garbage in, garbage out. If the data we have been feeding into the research has been garbage all these years, then all our economic research output has been garbage."

Officials said imports were revised because previous calculations did not include transactions between multinational companies, while export levels were changed to take account of electronic data files from the Subic freeport.

"Imports by multinational companies were not captured because they were doing it through intercompany accounts, and not through banks," said Diwa Guinigundo, deputy central bank governor.

The accuracy of Philippine data was called into question two years ago when the government restated imports data for 2000 to 2002.

The problem then was massive under-reporting of imported electronic parts, which are then assembled into semiconductors, computer accessories and other finished goods that make up two-thirds of exports.

Song Seng Wun, economist at G.K. Goh Securities in Singapore, said he had noticed discrepancies between import and export data reported by the Philippines and its trading partners.

"The import numbers were a lot more than what was previously reported," he said.

"The aggregate number from Philippine trading partners pointed to a much larger number."

'Another economist said that the revised figures "do not look good on the surface."

"But I think this is a genuine attempt to clean up the books," said Louis Dumlao of the Ateneo de Manila University. *AFP, Reuters*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 3, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	30	30	30	30	648,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50	50.5	50	50.5	1,568,600
China Banking Corp.	770	770	770	770	430
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	200
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	10,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	49	49.5	49	49.5	159,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28	27.5	28	514,300
Philippine National Bank	46.5	46.5	46	46	55,300
Security Bank Corp.	30	30	29.5	30	442,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	30	30	30	30	8,800
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2820	2845	2820	2845	890
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2025	2030	2025	2030	710
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.5	59,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1	1.02	1	1.02	381,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	815	815	805	810	151,330
Ipeople Inc.	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	23,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.06	0.0525	0.06	58,000,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	732,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1625	1635	1620	1630	238,140
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	60,200,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.75	15	14.75	15	135,800
Manila Electric Co. B	24	25.5	24	25.5	852,800
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	2,008,000
Petron Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.15	3.2	1,528,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.14	1.18	1.14	1.16	1,817,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	26,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8	8	8	8	66,000
Keppel Phils. Marine, Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	20,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	21,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	350,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1,000,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	90,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	14,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31	31	31	31	258,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	31.5	32.5	31.5	32.5	483,400
San Miguel Corp. A	69.5	69.5	68.5	69.5	140,000
San Miguel Corp. B	100	100	99.5	100	61,600
Universal Robina Corp.	16	16	16	16	3,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	700,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	45,000,000
Ayala Corp.	307.5	310	307.5	307.5	87,220
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.52	0.65	0.52	0.63	62,560,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5	4.95	4.95	2,127,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.025	0.025	0.024	0.024	600,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	70,000
APC Group, Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	250,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	7,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.7	0.7	300,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	150,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.12	1.14	1.1	1.14	5,287,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	3,480,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.19	60,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	300,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.75	2.8	2.75	2.8	1,088,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	1,000,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	571,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	44	44.5	43.5	44.5	104,200
Global Equities Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.0725	0.0725	400,000
Ionics Inc.	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	301,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.4	3.4	3.35	3.35	1,246,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.34	1.34	2,845,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	10,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	3,310,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	20,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	170,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.55	0.61	0.55	0.6	2,780,000
SM Investments Corp.	219	219	216	217	327,630
South China Resources Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	20,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	30,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	4,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.18	0.18	1,000,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	310,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	110,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.46	1.56	1.46	1.56	172,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.67	0.67	130,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0875	0.09	0.0875	0.09	4,000,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.96	0.97	0.95	0.95	2,100,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	6	6	6	6	1,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	30,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.34	1.36	1.34	1.36	2,175,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	13.75	13.75	13.5	13.5	922,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	6,100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.1	8.2	8.1	8.2	1,567,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	50,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	1,190,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	800,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	1,310,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.44	1.46	1,596,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	500,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	10,000
SM Development Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.46	1.46	338,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	8,076,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.02	1.06	1.02	1.02	465,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.08	1.08	1.04	1.06	861,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.0075	0.0065	0.0075	60,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	4.9	4.9	4.85	4.85	64,000
Benguet Corp. A	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	20,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.06	2.06	2.04	2.04	110,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	210,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	1,060,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	1,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	2,400,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	11,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.9	0.91	0.9	0.9	1,410,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28	28	27.5	27.5	126,700
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0065	0.007	0.0065	0.007	103,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	63,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.7	143,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	510,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	150,000

CURRENCIES

August 3, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.819807	1.000000	56.0820
Japan	Yen	0.007356	0.008973	0.5032
United Kingdom	Pound	1.451713	1.770800	99.3100
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.105480	0.128664	7.2157
Switzerland	Franc	0.642230	0.783392	43.9342
Canada	Dollar	0.673629	0.821693	46.0822
Singapore	Dollar	0.495711	0.604668	33.9110
Australia	Dollar	0.627051	0.764877	42.8958
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.174669	2.652661	148.7665
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.218603	0.266652	14.9544
Brunei	Dollar	0.494216	0.602845	33.8088
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000103	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.019865	0.024231	1.3589
UAE	Dirham	0.223210	0.272272	15.2696
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.219800	68.4088
Argentina	Peso	0.286645	0.349650	19.6091
Brazil	Real	0.348483	0.425080	23.8393
Denmark	Kroner	0.134030	0.163490	9.1688
India	Rupee	0.018885	0.023036	1.2919
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.218848	0.266951	14.9711
Mexico	New Peso	0.077268	0.094251	5.2858
New Zealand	Dollar	0.563712	0.687616	38.5629
Norway	Kroner	0.127382	0.155381	8.7141
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013751	0.016773	0.9407
South Africa	Rand	0.126076	0.153787	8.6247
Korea	Won	0.000803	0.000980	0.0550
Sweden	Kroner	0.106805	0.130281	7.3064
Syria	Pound	0.015793	0.019264	1.0804
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025812	0.031486	1.7658
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000382	0.000466	0.0261

Shares close 0.15% . . .

From page B1

ing to renewed political concerns following the filing of an impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo, and as the market consolidates after rising to a five-week high last week, the dealers added.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index added 3.05 points to the day's high of 1,988.14. It traded at a low of 1,978.77.

Turnover was 546.76 million shares worth P1.01 billion ($17.99 million). Gainers outnumbered losers 29 to 24, while 63 stocks ended unchanged.

The broader all-shares index gained 2.30 points to 1,195.42.

"Investors are gauging how the political situation would turn out," said Jonathan Ravelas of Banco De Oro Universal Bank. "They want to hear more positive stories, but it seems we could get those only from the corporate sector, which has so far reported generally strong profits."

PLDT, the most active stock, gained P15 to P1,630 amid expectations of higher net profit for the three months to June.

Rival Globe Telecom fell P15 to P810 after reporting that its first-half net profit slid 38 percent to P4.2 billion because of increased income tax provisions and expenses. *AFP*

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Forex traders expect peso to remain fragile

But will not likely breach all-time low of 56.45:$1

By Doris C. Dumlao

TOP officials of financial markets association ACI Philippines yesterday said the peso would likely remain fragile due to political jitters but was not likely to break the all-time low of 56.45:$1.

Treasury officials from different banks said the current political stalemate made it "almost impossible for the peso to appreciate back to the 54:$1 level."

"The Bangko Sental ng Pilipinas will prevent peso from breaching the 56.45:$1 level because every time the peso hits new lows, the markets turn crazy," said Wick Veloso, treasurer of HSBC Philippines.

Veloso is also the organizing chair of ACI's World Congress, which the Philippines will host in May next year.

He said further hikes in the reserve requirement imposed on banks would likely be the BSP's preferred route in curbing excess liquidity in the system.

Assuming that the political crisis will soon come to an end, Veloso said the peso could resume its uptrend and even zoom to the 52:$1 level by next year.

For now, he said the local currency would likely be locked between 55.75 and 56.45 and that any strengthening past 55.75 would likely be temporary.

ACI Philippines president Jose Emmanuel Hilado said that for as long as political concerns were hounding the markets, it would be difficult for the peso to gain ground even as other countries in Asia were benefiting from the revaluation of the Chinese yuan. He said the peso would trade between 55.25 to 56.45 against the dollar amid the current political conditions.

Lito Biacora, ACI Philippines treasurer and chief foreign exchange dealer at Bank of the Philippine Islands, said the peso would likely continue testing historic lows in the short-term.

He said volatility in the forex market would depend on certain conditions, such as progress in the government's fiscal consolidation, perception of credit rating agencies and China's management of the yuan.

Biacora said the assessment of global rating agencies—such as Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch—was inevitably affecting market sentiment such as when they assigned a "negative" outlook on the Philippines early this month.

Aside from the political jitters, Veloso said the foreign exchange market was under great pressure from rising oil prices, which had jacked up oil companies' dollar requirements to about $450 million a month or more than double their import bills in the past.

POLITICAL concerns make it almost impossible for the peso to appreciate back to 54: $1 level, say money market traders. AP

Banks' bad loans seen to drop even without SPV law extension

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas sees the non-performing loans of commercial banks settling at 10 percent of their total loan portfolio by the end of the year, from a peak of 18 percent in 2004, even without an extension of the Special Purpose Vehicle Act.

This developed as credit rating agency Standard & Poor's noted in a report that the local banks' bad loan overhang was still substantial, thus constraining their appetite to lend.

"The SPV Act and underlying tax incentives have not met expectations of resolving the industry's bad debt, as lackluster credit demand means banks are not sufficiently profitable to absorb the losses from disposing bad loans," S&P said.

"Besides stronger credit growth to improve profitability, banks need to address the underlying causes of bad asset quality, such as weak lending and risk management practices," the rating agency added.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. told reporters that as of last June 15, some P75 billion worth of non-performing assets clogging the books of commercial banks had been approved for transfer but had yet to be fully reflected in the industry's latest report on asset quality.

Also, a possible extension of the SPV Law will help banks unload another chunk of bad assets worth at least P100 billion and trim the NPL ratio to 7.5 percent, Tetangco noted.

But many have given up on the speedy extension of the SPV law, knowing that Congress is now busy with the wiretapping and illegal gambling hearings and would further be constrained if and when impeachment and Charter change initiatives push through.

The SPV Law, which expired last April, gave fiscal incentives to wholesale asset transfers, aimed at encouraging banks to clean up their books and free up more funds for lending. It waived the documentary stamp tax, capital gains tax and expanded value-added tax while reducing the registration/transfer fees by 50 percent.

Doris C. Dumlao

GDP growth likely . . .

From page B1

higher-than-expected inflation, rising unemployment and underemployment, the negative outlook on the country's credit standing, decline in exports, unsettled equities and foreign exchange markets, and drop in investments.

Relating politics to economics, Habito said recent political events not only led to the downgrade of the country's credit rating, but somehow affected the shaky behavior of the equities and the foreign exchange markets, which are already influenced by unpredictable movement of rates in the global scene.

Habito then said that what the country needs for the economy to take off is a brand new leadership that is principle-oriented, so as to address the government's apparent lack of "vision, inspiration and cohesion."

Habito noted some achievements in the fiscal sector, such as the posting of a lower-than-targeted budget deficit for the first half of the year. But he said the government needed to undertake institutional reforms to better achieve the goal of putting its fiscal house in order.

He also noted the weak enforcement of laws on tax evasion, low morale in the bureaucracy and lack of teamwork among government agencies.

Habito also said he was concerned with the squabble between the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Department of Justice, who are blaming each other for the delays in the progress of the tax evasion cases filed by the government.

He said the low morale in government agencies—where employees tend to distrust their own leaders—was a disadvantage to the development goals.

"When you have this kind of situation, [people begin to doubt] the effectiveness by which the government can work," he said.

To push efforts to improve the country's fiscal condition, Habito suggested that the Philippines now seriously consider asking for a debt relief. Although he added that such a move should be done in a discreet manner to avoid rattling the markets.

He also said that asking for a debt relief would require political reforms, including change in leadership.

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Editor Aries Espinosa

A rejuvenating residence

A HOME is an abode meant to relax, rejuvenate both one's senses and spirit - to make one look forward to each new day, where sunlight eases through wide open windows and is reflected as well in the calming waters of the house's pool.

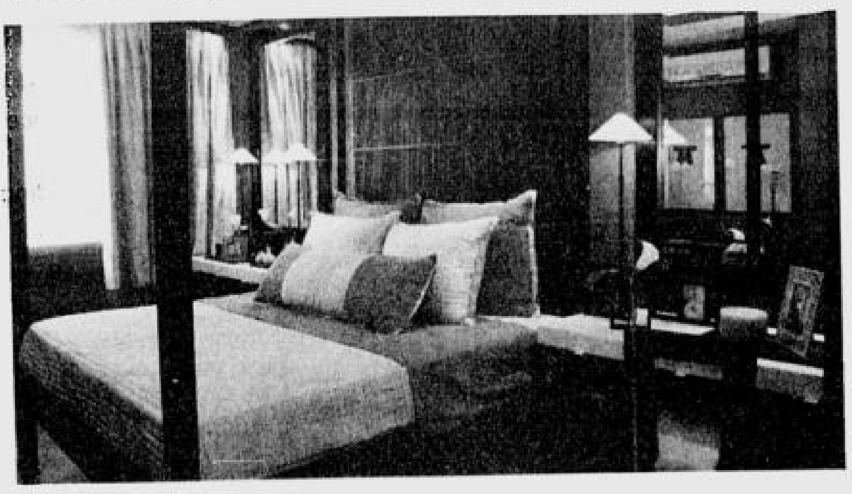
Nowhere does this ring more true than at the Bali Mansions, the newest community to rise at South Forbes Golf City. And it is reflected in the Mansions' wood-finish exteriors all the way to the contemporary Asian interiors as creatively rendered by ace designing duo Ivy and Cynthia Almario.

"We envisioned the Bali Mansions to exude a tropical Asian look. Thus, we used a lot of beige, brown, and gray to convey the resort atmosphere in one's home, and accented these colors with white tones to provide a strong contrast to the dark, woody colors. To liven the rooms up, we added tropical colors such as red, green, and oranges," narrates Ivy.

Their vision was brought to life in the Coralia model unit, which was inaugurated for viewing by select clients recently. The Coralia boasts 258 square meters of space, including a three-car garage, a large lanai, and a pond. From the outside, the intricate details of the wood embellishments below the terrace and at the door welcome residents to a homey paradise.

The living room uses a lot of natural materials from the center wooden table to the fabrics used for the ultra comfortable four-seater sofas. Large pillows in brown, beige, and green adorn the sofa, and all are laced with tassels for a distinctive Asian feel. Intricate hand-shaped metal accessories from Bangkok and large lamps, also featuring tassels, complete the Balinese "look."

The dining table and chairs have dark wood finishes as well, making guests feel like they're being treated to a sumptuous dinner at a resort. Actually, since they'll be dining from large leaf plates and inhaling the air scented by aromatic candles, dinner time at the Bali Mansions is more of partaking food to rejuvenate one's soul, not just for subsistence.



The elaborate wood finishing is extended to the stairs as well. These are straight and are made of wrought iron and in dark brown. Once one alights the stairs, a highly elaborate, imported 5 ft by 5 ft wood carving greets with splendor.

Upstairs, the couple basks in a red bedroom that goes with their intense passion for the best in life. Their four-poster bed and its golden red and beige pillows give a sense of royalty. His and hers vanity areas accented by Artemis lamps as well as two lavatories make them excited for the day ahead. Louvre-type cabinets with fabrics for the walk-in closet further give them a feeling of luxury.

The girl's room comes in relaxing tones of light green and fuchsia pink. A square quilted duvet for the beddings is really fit for a princess. The entire headboard wall was especially upholstered. Two especially made wood artworks stand guard as she sleeps. The mirror effect, meanwhile, gives much space to the boy's room. A long headboard, in white leatherette, jibes well with the light brown and white motif.

Once seen for its totality, the Coralia model unit offers a relaxing spa-like environment for the family. But unlike the spa environment that one wants gets to experience for a short time at regular intervals, the Coralia gives discriminating homeowners that chance to have a daily spiritual retreat. After a hard day's work, moments of relaxation are just a short drive away, to be enjoyed with the entire family.

For the pleasure of visiting the South Forbes Bali Mansions, please call 636-4647 or 635-8108 now and log on to www.cathaylandinc.com.

SIX STUDENTS MOVE ON TO NESTLÉ ICE CREAM SCOOPETITION SEMIS

Twelve students wowed the ice cream-loving crowd during the first round of the Nestlé Ice Cream Scoopetition held last July 22 at the Julius Maggi Kitchen in Nestlé Rockwell. Six of them, who came up with novel recipes showing the versatility of ice cream as beverage, will now face off at the semi-final stage of the Scoopetition wherein three winners will be chosen. The winning trio will then advance to the grand finals to be held on Aug. 6 at the World Food Expo (Wofex) at the World Trade Center where again, they will be tasked to create refreshments and desserts using mainly Nestlé Ice cream. The Nestlé Ice Cream Scoopetition grand prize winner will win P15,000 while the adviser will be given P7,500. Shown are the six finalists flanked by Nestlé officers (from left): John Ong - Trade Marketing Food Services, Nestlé Phils; Andrea La Verne Oliveros Vasquez - St. Paul University, Manila; Michelle Santiago-Ong - College of St. Benilde; Alvin Andrada - Philippine Women's University; Rachelle Ann Garcia Manuel - University of Sto. Tomas; Laura Angelica Måldia Ramos - University of Sto. Tomas; Florence Ponferrada - St. Scholastica's College; Gibby Penaflor - marketing manager, Nestlé Phils.

Let's talk about incontinence

A GOOD number of men and women are suffering from this condition, suffering silently perhaps. They are embarrassed and afraid that if they even ask for help, childhood conditioning will put them in a bad light.

But what really is incontinence? The International Continence Society Standardization Committee defines incontinence as "a condition in which involuntarily loss of urine is asocial or hygienic problem and is objectively demonstrable". Simply put, there is no control over bladder or bowel functions. One must go at any time, anywhere, no matter what.

Incontinence is not a disease. It is but a malfunction of the urinary system brought about by several conditions and disorders like birth defects, multiple sclerosis, poliomyelitis, infection, and degenerative changes associated with aging. It can also accompany pregnancy or childbirth.

Who are the usual sufferers of incontinence? While this ailment is normally associated with the elderly, children and young adults may also be susceptible. But no matter the age, living with incontinence is not as difficult as it seems. Here are several ways to ease the discomfort and anxiety:

Get a good assessment from your doctor. Discerning what type of incontinence ails allows for the proper prescription or lifestyle adjustment. Keep yourself active and maintain social contact with family and friends. Do not isolate yourself so that your self-esteem does not suffer. Withdrawing from interpersonal interaction will only cause further depression. Allow other people to comfort and encourage you. Such gestures come from loving hearts and generous spirits, and will do well for your health and general well-being. Also, help is available through the use of adult diapers, which is very convenient both for the user and the caregiver or family member who attends to the needs of incontinent sufferers.

One such excellent example is Dr. P, the country's No. 1 brand of adult diaper brand, a product that cares and understands the needs of others. They empathize with the sufferers' hesitation to buy adult diapers because of the stigma attached to their condition. Dr. P also knows perfectly well their need for comfort, safety, and confidence against potentially embarrassing situations truly, Dr. P will provide peace of mind and a guarantee of protection.

Thus, each Dr. P adult diaper is equipped with a super absorbent pad that prevents leaks and maintains a dry feel. More importantly, it is the only one with Antibiosis and deodorization layer that controls the growth of germs and neutralizes unpleasant odors. There is even a wetness indicator, which makes diaper checks extra convenient and accurate. Available variants are Basic for light incontinence, Standard for moderate incontinence, and Premium for heavy incontinence.

Exclusively distributed in the Philippines by JS Unitrade Merchandise Inc, Dr. P adult diapers are available at all leading supermarkets, groceries, and drug stores.

Tritium launches Directory of Int'l Funding Organizations

HOT off the press, Tritium Knowledge Center Publishing (TKCP) announces the availability of its Directory of International Funding Organizations, Non Profit Organizations, NGOs, Corporate Donors and Relie Agencies.

This resource directory is an important addition to any library whether a corporation planning its corporate social responsibility program; an NGO promoting and advocating a specific course; a school, college, institute or university contemplating a new education initiative; a foundation seeking partners and funding for a specific project; a cooperative seeking to streamline its operations; an international social organization seeking assistance for its medical mission; an LGU or government agency working on an enterprise development project, a livelihood project or a job creation project.

This 600 page volume is up-to-date as of July 2005. Organizations listed in the directory shows complete details such as contact person, contact address, telephone number, fax number, e-mail address, website address, priorities and programs, type of support given, brief description, restrictions, mode of application, and typical size range of grant.

For inquiries in getting a copy, the contact numbers of TKCP are 531-0084; cellphone - 0919-229-9777; 0919-229-9780 and 0915-780-4379.

TKCP conducts proposal writing seminars and writes winning proposals for NGOs that need funding support. It also sells its best selling book called Proposal Writing Guidebook, a resource book for proposal writers who wish to submit winning proposals for funding and in-kind support from funding organizations.

2005 STORES ASIA EXPO CONTRACT SIGNING

The Philippine Retailers Association (PRA), the nationally recognized organization of major retailers in the country, will hold the 2005 Stores Asia Expo on Aug. 17 to 19 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City. Joining the Expo this year as the event's official graphic design group is AlienMind Inc, a video post production and 3D animation and graphic design studio. Shown in photo are (from right) lawyer Paul A. Santos, Picture City president and Stores Asia Expo committee chair; Joey Singian, Video City GM and expo committee co-chair; AlienMind creative head Budee Mendoza; and Pauline Cala-or, Maxibear GM and Expo committee member.

WOMEN POWER

Rustans Essences Foundation, Women's Business Council (WBC) and Women in Nation-Building (WIN) sign a memorandum of agreement for the former's sponsorship of the revised primer on women's rights. The primer is a comprehensive educational material on most commonly asked questions on women's rights and responsibilities. Seated (from left): are WBC president Mely Nicolas, WIN president Babsy Migallos, Essences Foundation president Kathleen Lior Liechtenstein and Lorna Kapunan. With them are (standing, from left): WBC chair Sabsy Palanca, Evelyn Singson, Boots Garcia, Ruby Paurom, Mariane Villareal and Lennie Abella. The Rustans Essences Foundation is a non-stock, non-profit organization that aims to play a meaningful role in the empowerment of the Filipino woman.

Bits & Clips

Drypers raffle promo

DRYPERS, the disposable diapers that keep your baby fresh and cool, gives you a fresh, cool chance to win a brand new Toyota Innova as well as other exciting cash and gift prizes. With the Drypers Presko Panalo raffle promo, all you have to do to join is to write your name, address, contact number, name of store where product was purchased and signature on a piece of paper and enclose in a white legal envelope together with a Drypers pack proof of purchase, then drop in drop boxes or mail your entries to Drypers Presko Panalo c/o GMA 7 Edsa corner Timog Ave., Diliman, Q.C. Acceptable Drypers proofs of purchase are: 3 Drypers Singles packs or 1 Drypers pack of 4's and up for every entry. The first monthly draw will be on Aug. 9 where 3 winners each from Metro Manila, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will be awarded P20,000 in cash plus 3 months' supply of Drypers. Grand draw will be on Oct. 9. For questions/comments please contact : SCA Consumer Care at 1-800-10-225-5722 (toll free number) or (02)-543-5090 loc 112 look for Gladys.

Pedigree Pet Idol Search

BEING the pioneer event that featured the 1st Reality Talent Search for Dogs in the limelight, Pedigree dog food together with SM Malls and Shield Inc will once more bring to center stage "The Pedigree Pet Idol Search 2005". With the rising popularity of Reality Talent Search Shows, this event will capture not only the hearts of dog enthusiasts but also everyone who enjoys novelty entertainment. Featuring celebrity judges who will give their comments ala American Idol, a chosen number from the audience will likewise be invited to take part in choosing successful audition participants who will form part of the grand finals event. Open to all dogs, registered and non-registered, pro and non-pro, this year's search will be bigger and better than last year that will show off various special tricks, talents and skills of would be Pet Idols. Auditions starts on Aug. 14, at the Activity Center, Building A of SM Megamall. For details, please call 655-0693, 824-8721, 0917-5295880, 0917-8734028 and 0927-7984924.

Wofex 2005 opens

THE MOST anticipated food event of the year opens Aug. 3 to 6 at the World Trade Center, Manila Philippines. World Food Expo 2005 (Wofex), the 5th International Exposition on Worldwide Food and Beverages, opens the three exhibit halls of WTC with over 600 wall-to-wall exhibit booths and exhibitors boasting of the best food and beverage supplies and products from all over the world. Co-located events are the Baker's Fair, Foodmach Expo, Taste Expo and World Food Summit. For more details, log on to www.wofex.com or call Premier Events Plus Group Inc at 929-7993 or 63, 436-4209 or 920-8136.

Product Files

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PHILCONSTRUCT 2005

ASIACO JOINS PHILCONSTRUCT

Acsiaco Enterprises International Corp confirms its participation as an exhibitor in Philconstruct 2005 during the contract signing held recently. The annual event organized by the Philippine Contractors Association will be held on Nov. 10 to 13, at the World Trade Center. Asiaco, the leader in pull-out wire baskets, modular kitchen cabinets, home organizers and accessories will again show its latest innovations in kitchen organizers and other new products. Present at the contract signing are Ching Evangelista, (PCA) Philippine Constructors Association Inc director; Joan Retiro, Asiaco marketing assistant; Noelito Policarpio, 2nd vice president of PCA; Manolito P. Madrasto, executive director of PCA and Eric Concepcion, PCA consultant.

Wiring homes with care

IN THE latter part of 2004, the province of Quezon was one of the hardest hit by devastating typhoons. Thousands of families were left with only the clothes on their backs. This year, Gawad Kalinga Luzon aims to build 3,000 homes for these families in an effort to help them regain what they have lost and rebuild their lives. Last May 20, Phelps Dodge signed a partnership with Gawad Kalinga Luzon to provide these families with electrical wiring that cares for their lives. Phelps Dodge, the leader in the local wire and cable industry, will donate TW wires for 2,000 GK homes in General Nakar, Infanta and Real. These homes are already set for construction within this year. The TW wires from Phelps Dodge carry the same quality Phelps Dodge wires are known for worldwide. Although reasonably priced, Phelps Dodge TW wires are made with the highest standards. It is the Phelps Dodge brand of wiring specifically designed and made for low-cost housing. Phelps Dodge continues to provide all homes and establishments with undisputed electrical wiring quality - from the lead-free premium THHN wires designed specifically for high-end homes, commercial and industrial facilities, to TW wires. As a company, Phelps Dodge believes that wiring homes should be done with much care - from the production line to the shelf. Its partnership with GK Luzon reinforces its credo of responsible leadership and corporate citizenship.

A LOBOCANON PAINTING EXHIBIT

Artist Rico (Mesiona) Tompong, a Lobocanon artist based in Angono and Binangonan, Rizal mounted a solo art exhibit in Loboc, Bohol last May 24 at the Museo de Loboc Convento Veranda. This exhibit is part of the activities held in connection with the annual celebration of the Feast of the blessed Virgin of Guadalupe. Loboc is the music town and the cultural capital of Bohol province, among its tourist attractions is Busay Falls of Brgy. Cambance (the place in which the artist grew up). Photo shows (from left) guest of honor Loboc Mayor Leon Calipusan, artist Rico Tompong, and Fr. Desiderio Magdoza.

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QUEZON CITY

★ KATIPUNAN EXT ★
LA3,648 Comml Main Road
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HOUSE & LOT

LAS PINAS

COMMERCIAL LOTS
Las Piñas/Bacoor
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MAKATI

Lots, H&L C5 nr Fort
1.2M-11M Nr McKinley Hills 4-5br
10% DP or 3Yrs No Int or No DP
10mins Fr. Ayala 0917-8313226

NR MARKET' 153M² 6279629

MANDALUYONG

MANDALUYONG NR SHAW
BnewTwnhse-3stry-3br-3-4tb/mdsrm/1-2grge
P3.645M up 8903461 loc 34,33 & 32

MARIKINA

Bnew 4br 3tb jacuzi 3M 9487112

PROVIDENT VILL nr ATENEO
3rd lot gate ent 301m² Rush
2.2M 9488240; 09178529400

QUEZON CITY

•KAMIAS #80 K-6 cor K-I St.•
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OTHER AREAS

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

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Nr SM Dasma 681K 5208410

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.3M C5 Nr The Fort
12T/mo. or 4Yrs. No Int. or
10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR
15min Fr Mkti 0917-8169849

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MANILA

NEAR LA SALLE TAFT BnewTwnhse
/3stry/3br/3-4tb/mdsrm/1-2grge P3.965M
8903461 loc 32-34

Pre-Sell Roxas Blvd 2007
No DP 40K/mo. or 20%DP 23K/mo.
Bay Garden 09176104678

MANDALUYONG

RESIDENTIAL, COMM'L, OFFICE
UNITS (Sale/Rent)09192189817

PARANAQUE

Chateau De Bay Condo
171.78m² incl carpark fully furn
P30T rent P4M sale neg
0921-5799456 Aileen

SAN JUAN

L. MENCIAS NR. P. GUEVARRA
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/3-4tb/ maid's rm/1-
2grge P3.645M up 8903461 loc 34,33 & 32

LOT

QUEZON CITY

★KATIPUNAN Ext Resl lot
nr UP Ateneo 204 to 408m²
P8,500/m² 0918-9235216★

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Comm'l Lot P10,000/sqm from
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4 Loyola Mrkna/Lot 8318562

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10,193m² QC 4563243

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HOUSE

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

ALABANG

141 Batangas West
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w/s-pool 0926-7102225

PASAY

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

RENT/SALE 3BR 222sqm CON-
DO ROXAS BLVD SUNSET
BAYVIEW 09178920682

QUEZON CITY

4br Corinthian Garden 6341212

APARTMENT

MAKATI

7030 WILSON ST NR MKT MED
(0917)5405281/7355414

QUEZON CITY

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LAS PINAS 8054326 / 6342
QUEZON CITY 3730239-40
CAINTA/PASIG 2401300/3500

COMMERCIAL

MANILA

LSD 621 Bldg. Ayala Blvd cor
Mercedes St Ermita Manila
#09164336866/75-80 SQM

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

MALATE MLA 526-8048/49

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

2 Beach House/Lot F/Land
2 Hrs Drive frm Cebu City
White Sand nice loc 483 sqm
5BR 4T/B 673 sqm 6BRR
7TB all A/con F-Land 5.5 has
P60/sqm 032-3461711
09174804914, 09214509195
For Sale or Rent

HOUSE & LOT

MANILA

3-STOREY HOUSE 4 SALE
2.4M OR RENT 10T A. LINAO
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CARS FOR RENT

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TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Honodina Y. de Luna was extrajudicially settled by her heirs with waiver of right as per Doc. No. 173 & 174, Page No. 35, Book No. 66, Series of 2005 of Notary Public Nelly B. Molina of San Juan (PDI-July 24, 31 & Aug. 7, 2005)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO BID

LEASE AND DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMERCIAL LOT LOCATED WITHIN THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT CENTER (NGC) – EASTSIDE

1. The NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY shall accept lease proposals for the commercial use and development of Lot 1-A covered by TCT no. RT-34366 (28391) of the subdivision plan (LRC) Psd-11984 situated at the corner of Commonwealth Avenue and the Interim Batasan Pambansa (IBP) Road, Diliman, Quezon City, which is registered under the Republic of the Philippines, having an area of three thousand six hundred sixty (3,660.0) square meters.
2. Property for lease shall have a maximum area of 3,160 square meters. It is within the fifty-(50) meter depth, measured right after the ninety five (95) meter road right-of-way which is designated as a commercial area along Commonwealth Avenue.
3. The proposed development of the lot by the lease proponent shall be in accordance with the Site Development Plan conceived for the National Government Center (NGC) – Eastside Development Project based on the provisions of Republic Act No. 9207, otherwise known as the NGC Housing and Land Utilization Act of 2003.
4. Minimum bid for the lease shall not be lower than PhP3,033,600.00 per annum. A minimum of 10% of the advanced annual lease payment in the form of Manager's check shall be tendered during the actual bidding.
5. Letters of Intent shall be submitted to the The Chairman, *Commercial/Industrial Bids & Awards Committee (COINBAC)* c/o the Secretariat, 2nd Floor, Main Office, National Housing Authority, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
6. Bidding will be conducted by COINBAC through open competitive bidding procedures.
7. Bidding materials, inclusive of the *Terms of Reference (TOR)* can be secured from the Secretariat for a non-refundable fee of PhP1,000.00.
8. SCHEDULES

1. Submission of Letter of Intent	**From August 11, to August 18, 2005, office hours**	**c/o CIED/Secretariat 2nd Floor, NHA Main Office**
2. Submission of Pre-Qualification Requirements	**August 18, 2005, office hours**	**-do-**
3. Pre-Bid Conference	**August 22, 2005, 10:00 a.m.**	**Operations Center, 3rd Floor, NHA Main Office**
4. Submission of Bids	**August 29, 2005, 9:00 a.m. to 12 n.n.**	**-do-**
5. Opening of Bids	**August 29, 2005, 2:00 p.m.**	**-do-**

The NHA reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to the contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **JOSEPH PETER S. SISON**
Chairman, COINBAC

(PDI - Aug. 4 & 9, 2005)

MANILA GAS CORPORATION (MGC)
INTER-ISLAND GAS SERVICES INC. (IIGSI)

INVITATION TO PUBLIC BIDDING

MGC/IIGSI offers for sale through sealed public bidding on August 24, 2005, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the NDC Audio Visual Room, Penthouse, NCC Building, 118 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City, the following real estate properties:

1. ***Paco Properties***

The North Property is located at Sanciangco St., Paco, Manila and is composed of 3 contiguous lots:

TCT – 34304	–	2,608.20 sqm
TCT – 33924	–	2,231.40
TCT – 33924	–	7,431.20
		12,270.80 sqm

The South Property is located at 1536 Paz Guazon St., Paco, Manila and is composed of 5 contiguous lots:

TCT – 39480	–	536.80 sqm
TCT – 39482	–	2,239.00
TCT – 39482	–	1,727.73
TCT – 25165	–	502.00
TCT – 25165	–	34,990.00
		39,995.53 sqm

2. ***Cebu Property***

The Cebu Property is located along the Barangay Road, Barangay Opao, Mandaue City and is composed ot 2 adjoining lots:

TCT – 18998	–	2,128.00 sqm
TCT – 18999	–	9,529.00
		11,657.00 sqm

Due diligence period is from August 03-23, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to be coordinated with the MGC/IIGSI Bids Committee. Interested parties may secure the Bidding Package starting August 03, 2005 from MGC c/o Ms. Ellen Paracale, 7/F NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Tel. No. 8404838 loc. 223 & 313 / Fax No. 8404862 and IIGSI c/o Mr. Charlie Villegas, 3215 District 5 Sangi, Barangay Pajo, Lapu-Lapu City. Tel. No. 032-3418874. A pre-bidding conference is scheduled on August 15, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at the NDC Audio Visual Room, Penthouse, NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City.

The sale of the above properties shall be strictly on CASH-AS-IS WHERE-IS BASIS.

MGC/IIGSI reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or to waive any of the formalities required, or to accept only such bids or portion of bids which is deemed advantageous to MGC/IIGSI.

(PDI – August 3, 4 & 5, 2005)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
Regional Office No. V
Legazpi City

Case No. LMRO 05-056B

RE : Amended application for grant of a Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) by way of addition of trips and of shipping route to operate liner service in the operation of its ship in its applied route for the carriage of passengers and cargoes and to charge deregulated rates and to operate under a deregulated schedule of trips pursuant to Republic Act No. 9295 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

SANTA CLARA SHIPPING CORPORATION
Applicant.
x- -x

ORDER

This refers to the amended application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) by way of addition of trips and of shipping route to operate the following ships in its route, under the following sailing frequency, schedule of trips and rates:

Name of Ship/s	Service/s offered / to be offered
MV "NELVIN JULES"	Passenger/Cargo
MV "KING FREDERICK"	Passenger/Cargo
MV "HANSEL JOBETT"	Passenger/Cargo

Route/s to be served:

(a) Matnog, Sorsogon – Allen, Northern Samar and vice versa; (b) Tandayag, Amlan, Negros Oriental – Bato, Samboan, Cebu and vice versa. (c) Masbate City – Pantao, Libon, Albay and vice versa. (d) Lipata, Surigao – Liloan, Southern Leyte and vice versa. (e) Cebu City – Naval, Biliran – Allen, Northern Samar and vice versa; (f) Maasin, Southern Leyte – Ubay, Bohol and vice versa. (g) Matnog, Sorsogon – Magino-o, Calbayog City and vice versa

Sailing Frequency(ies) Schedule

Departure			Arrival		
Port	Day	Time	Port	Daily	Time
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	12:00 MN	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	1:00 AM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	12:45 AM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	1:45 AM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	1:50 AM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	2:50 AM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	2:20 AM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	3:20 AM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	3:00 AM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	4:00 AM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	3:30 AM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	4:30 AM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	4:30 AM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	5:30 AM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	5:00 AM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	6:00 AM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	5:30 AM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	6:30 AM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	6:00 AM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	7:00 AM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	7:30 AM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	8:30 AM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	8:00 AM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	9:00 AM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	8:45 AM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	9:45 AM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	9:45 AM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	10:45 AM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	10:30 AM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	11:30 AM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	11:20 AM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	12:20 PM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	1:00 PM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	2:00 PM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	1:30 PM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	2:30 PM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	2:00 PM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	3:00 PM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	2:30 PM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	3:30 PM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	3:55 PM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	4:55 PM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	4:30 PM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	5:30 PM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	5:15 PM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	6:15 PM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	6:20 PM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	7:20 PM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	7:00 PM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	8:00 PM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	8:50 PM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	9:50 PM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	9:30 PM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	10:30 PM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	10:00 PM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	11:00 PM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	11:20 PM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	12:20 PM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	12:00 MN	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	1:00 AM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	12:30 AM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	1:30 AM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	1:50 AM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	2:50 AM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	2:30 AM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	3:30 AM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	3:00 AM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	4:00 AM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	5:20 AM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	6:20 AM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	6:00 AM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	7:00 AM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	7:20 AM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	8:20 AM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	8:00 AM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	9:00 AM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	9:30 AM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	10:30 AM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	11:00 AM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	12:00 NN
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	11:30 AM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	12:30 PM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	12:50 PM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	1:50 PM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	1:00 PM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	2:00 PM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	1:30 PM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	2:30 PM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	2:00 PM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	3:30 PM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	2:50 PM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	3:50 PM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	3:30 PM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	4:30 PM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	4:30 PM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	5:30 PM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	5:20 PM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	6:20 PM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	6:00 PM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	7:00 PM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	6:20 PM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	7:20 PM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	7:30 PM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	8:30 PM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	8:20 PM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	9:20 AM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	9:30 PM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	10:30 PM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	10:00 PM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	11:00 AM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	10:50 PM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	11:50 PM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	12:00 MN	Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	4:00 AM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	2:00 AM	Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	6:00 AM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	3:00 AM	Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	7:00 AM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	5:00 AM	Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	9:00 AM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	7:00 AM	Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	11:00 AM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	8:00 AM	Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	12:00 NN
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	9:00 AM	Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	1:00 PM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	10:00 AM	Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	2:00 PM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	11:00 AM	Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	3:00 PM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	12:00 NN	Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	4:00 PM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	1:00 PM	Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	5:00 PM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	3:00 PM	Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	7:00 PM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	4:00 PM	Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	8:00 PM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	5:00 PM	Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	9:00 PM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	6:00 PM	Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	10:00 PM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	7:00 PM	Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	11:00 PM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	8:00 PM	Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	12:00 MN
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	9:00 PM	Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	1:00 AM
Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	5:00 AM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	9:00 AM
Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	6:00 AM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	10:00 AM
Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	8:00 AM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	12:00 NN
Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	9:00 AM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	1:00 PM
Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	10:00 AM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	2:00 PM
Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	11:00 AM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	3:00 PM
Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	12:00 NN	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	4:00 PM
Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	1:00 PM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	5:00 PM
Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	2:00 PM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	6:00 PM
Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	3:00 PM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	7:00 PM
Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	4:00 PM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	8:00 PM
Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	5:00 PM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	9:00 PM
Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	6:00 PM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	10:00 PM
Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	7:00 PM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	11:00 PM
Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	8:00 PM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	12:00 PM
Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	9:00 PM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	3:00 AM
Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	10:00 PM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	4:00 AM
Magino-o Calbayog City	Daily	11:00 PM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	5:00 AM

Schedule of Rates (Per Link)

Passage Rates

LINKS		Type of Accommodation / Class	Rate
From	To		
Matnog, Sorsogon	Allen, Northern Samar	3rd Class	P 80.00 (Regular)
		(Non Aircon)	64.00 (Sr. Citizen 20%)
			64.00 (Student with ID 20%)
			40.00 (Child 1-11 years old 50% discount; below 1 year old Free of Charge)
		2nd Class	P 100.00 (Regular)
		(Aircon)	

LINKS		Type of Accommodation / Class	Rate
From	To		
Matnog, Sorsogon	Magino-o, Calbayog	3rd Class	P 200.00 (Regular)
		(Non Aircon)	160.00 (Sr. Citizen 20%)
			160.00 (Student with ID 20%)
			100.00 (Child 1-11 years old 50% discount; below 1 year old Free of Charge)
		2nd Class	P 250.00 (Regular)
		(Aircon)	

RORO Rates

LINKS		Type of Vehicle	Rate/Unit	
From	To		Loaded	Empty
Matnog	Allen	PASSENGER VEHICLES		
Sorsogon	Northern Samar	Passenger Bus	P 1,430.00	P 2,210.00
		Mini Passenger Bus	1,040.00	1,560.00
		Passenger Jeepney	845.00	845.00
		Light Cars · SUVs · AUVs	715.00	715.00
		TRUCKS & CARGO TRAILER VANS		
		Isuzu ELF 4 wheeler & similar category	910.00	910.00
		Isuzu Elf 6-wheeler & similar category	1,235.00	1,105.00
		Isuzu Forward & similar category	1,560.00	1,300.00
		Isuzu Forward-long chassis & similar category	1,950.00	1,690.00
		Isuzu Truck 8-wheeler / 10-wheeler & similar Category	2,600.00	2,210.00
		Isuzu Truck loaded with bulldozer & similar Category	3,250.00	-
		PRIME MOVER TRUCKS/HEAVY EQUIPMENT		
		Tractor Head Only	1,100.00	-
		Trailer 14 to 18 wheeler	5,200.00	3,900.00
		Crane with Telescopic Boom	9,750.00	-
		Lattice Crane	9,750.00	-
		Crane without Boom	8,450.00	-
		Payloader · Backhoe · Grader	8,450.00	-
		TWO-WHEELER VEHICLES		
		Motorcycle Only	195.00	-
		Motorcycle with sidecar	325.00	-
		Bicycle	45.50	-
		Bicycle with side car	130.00	-
		OTHER CARGO		
		To be computed at 216.68 per linear meter		

RORO Rates

LINKS		Type of Vehicle	Rate/Unit	
From	To		Loaded	Empty
Matnog	Magino-o	PASSENGER VEHICLES		
Sorsogon	Calbayog City	Passenger Bus	P 4,290.00	8,630.00
		Mini Passenger Bus	3,120.00	4,680.00
		Passenger Jeepney	2,535.00	2,535.00
		Light Cars · SUVs · AUVs	2,145.00	2,145.00
		TRUCKS & CARGO TRAILER VANS		
		Isuzu ELF 4 wheeler & similar category	2,730.00	2,730.00
		Isuzu Elf 6-wheeler & similar category	3,705.00	3,315.00
		Isuzu Forward & similar category	4,680.00	3,900.00
		Isuzu Forward long chassis & similar category	5,850.00	5,070.00
		Isuzu Truck 8-wheeler / 10-wheeler & similar Category	7,800.00	6,630.00
		Isuzu Truck loaded with bulldozer & similar Category	9,750.00	-
		PRIME MOVER TRUCKS/HEAVY EQUIPMENT		
		Tractor Head Only	3,300.00	-
		Trailer 14 to 18 wheeler	15,600.00	11,700.00
		Crane with Telescopic Boom	29,250.00	-
		Lattice Crane	29,250.00	-
		Crane without Boom	25,350.00	-
		Payloader · Backhoe · Grader	25,350.00	-
		TWO-WHEELER VEHICLES		
		Motorcycle Only	585.00	-
		Motorcycle with sidecar	975.00	-
		Bicycle	136.50	-
		Bicycle with side car	390.00	-
		OTHER CARGO		
		To be computed at 216.68 per linear meter		

The Applicant shall cause the publication of this Order once in any of the five (5) major newspapers of national circulation in the Philippines or in a newspaper of local circulation, as applicable.

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships, Applicant's premises, passenger terminal/s and ticketing offices, as applicable.

The applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on **10 August 2005, Wednesday at 2:30 PM** at the Hearing Room, Maritime Industry Authority-V, 2nd Floor RCBC Bldg., Rizal St., Legazpi City, which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting.

The applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE), afterwhich, the application is deemed submitted for resolution/decision.

WITNESS the Honorable Administrator, **VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR.** this 2nd day of August 2005, Legazpi City Philippines.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD
(Sgd.) **LUCITA T. MADARANG**
Regional Director

(PDI – August 4, 2005)

NEEDED
Librarian-Para-legal

- Applicant must be at least third year law student
- Experience not required

Please submit application letter with resumé and picture to:

P.O. Box 781
Manila 1099
Philippines

URGENTLY NEEDED!!!
ACCOUNTING CLERK

Interested applicants may come in business attire for 1-day hiring on August 5, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on the 5th Flr. Evekal Bldg., #855 Arnaiz Street, Pasay Road, Makati City and look for Ms. Nilda Corre

- Candidate must be 21-28 years old
- Graduate of 4-year accounting course
- Salary flexible dependent on commitment to work on hand and qualifications
- Preferably with experience at least 6 months in accounting jobs, without experience is welcome
- Must be computer literate
- Willing to work in residential area and adaptable to changes in work place

This is a first-come first-serve interview. You may register now and call tel. # 899-2163.

Northern Samar Electric Cooperative, Inc.
NORSAMELCO
Brgy. Magsaysay, Bobon, Northern Samar
MOBILE: (0917) 3619744 • E-mail: Norsamelco@yahoo.com • FAX (055) 251-8163

INVITATION TO A PRE-QUALIFICATION CONFERENCE AND SEALED BIDDING

The Northern Samar Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NORSAMELCO) has received a subsidy from the National Electrification Administration (NEA). The proceed of subsidy is for construction of line under the Rural Electrification Program.

Interested parties are hereby invited to a PRE-QUALIFICATION CONFERENCE and SEALED BIDDING for supply of hereunder mention project:

Project	Construction of distribution line for 9 barangays
Location	NORSAMELCO coverage area
Contract	**Supply of Materials / Labor**
Amount	Php 5.1M
Pre-Bid Conference	August 8, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. Norsamelco main office
Opening of Bids	August 19, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. Norsamelco main office

Bid forms will be issued uon payment of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 1,500.00) non-refundable after a Pre-Bid conference.

Only qualified bidders who were present during the pre-qualification conference will be allowed to participate in the bidding.

Opening of bids will be on August 15, 2005. Bid Security equivalent must accompany sealed bid to 5% of the total bid price in an acceptable form.

The Northern Samar Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NORSAMELCO) hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein, and to accept such bids as may be deemed most advantageous to NORSAMELCO.

(Sgd.) HENRY C. BANJAWAN
Chairman

Noted:
(Sgd.) SALVADOR G. HERNANDEZ
General Manager
(PDI – August 2, 3 & 4, 2005)

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welcome.
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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late EULOGIO R. RODRIGUEZ has been extra-judicially settled by & among their heirs as evinced by Doc. 131, Page 28, Book I-K, S-2005 of the Not. Reg. of Jimmy D. Lacebal, Not Pub. for and in the City of Mandaluyong.
(PDI-Aug. 4, 11, 18, 2005)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late EULOGIO R. RODRIGUEZ has been extra-judicially settled by & among their heirs as evinced by Doc. 134, Page 28, Book I-K, S-2005 of the Not. Reg. of Jimmy D. Lacebal, Not Pub. for and in the City of Mandaluyong.
(PDI-Aug. 4, 11, 18, 2005)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF THE EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF THE LATE JOSE MILAN DAYAO SR., BY HIS LEGAL HEIRS AS PER DOC. NO. 222; PAGE NO. 46; BOOK NO. 06; SERIES OF 2005 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC HILARION T. OMADTO, JR. OF MANDALUYONG CITY
(PDI-July 21, 28 & Aug. 4, 2005)

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF THE LATE ANTONIO C. MARTINEZ FELINA C. MARTINEZ AND LUCIANO C. MARTINEZ PER DOC. NO. 331 PAGE NO. 68 BOOK NO 1 SERIES OF 2005 OF THE NOTARIAL REGISTER OF ATTY LENITA O. MENDOZA
PDI-JULY 28, AUGUST4 &11,2005

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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******** OUR COMPANY IS IN NEED OF A HIGH CALIBER CANDIDATES WHO CAN FILL UP THIS POSITION ********

CSD MANAGER

Qualifications:

- Male / Less than 35 years old
- Preferably can speak Chinese fluently
- A graduate of Business information
- Must have good communication skills
- Must have 5 years experience in Planning and Logistics.
- Familiar with Material Control & Planning/Problem Solving & Analysis
- Familiar with computer operation, both hard ware and soft ware

PURCHASING DEPT. SUPERVISOR

Qualifications:

- Male / Less than 30 years old
- Preferably can speak Chinese fluently
- A graduate of Mechanical Engineering
- Must have 2 years experience in engaging notebook computer manufacturing and construction management
- Must be well experienced in coordinating with suppliers and sourcers for the shipment related problems.
- Familiar with market information and Computer Software Application

Requirements:

- ➢ Updated resume with recent photo
- ➢ Diploma/Transcript of Records
- ➢ Birth Certificate
- ➢ Employment Certificate

Interested applicants may submit their requirements at Wistron InfoComm (Philippines), Corp.(#*4 Rizal Hi-way cor. Aim High Avenue, Subic Bay Industrial Park, Phase I Subic Bay Freeport Zone*).

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. JOSE MARIANO T. LOPINGCO – CEO

PROFESSIONAL HUMAN RESOURCE SOLUTIONS & SERVICES INC.

With License No. M-05-00-154 is Authorized to operate as a private recruitment & placement agency.

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that **Development Bank of the Philippines/Malolos Branch, Managers Check No. 000920710 July 27, 2005** in the amount of **P1,412,000.00** payable to **National Food Authority (NFA)** was lost on **August 2, 2005**.

The public is warned particularly National Food Authority not to accept/honor the said check. If found please return to **Mrs. Luwalhati Llages, Cell 0928-3955078**

(PDI - Aug. 4, 2005)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

CAREGIVER 5280730

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144
722-1155

PERSONAL

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Pray for us.

St. Jude, worker of miracles helper for the helpless, pray for us

Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eighth day, it has never failed

Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude, for favor granted.

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS

In Compliance with RA 7041

A. ACCOUNTING DIVISION

1. **ACCOUNTANT IV** - Item No. OMBA-A4-1-1998; SG-22
   Education: Bachelors degree in Commerce/Business Administration major in Accounting; Experience: Three (3) years of relevant experience; Training: sixteen hours of relevant training; Eligibility RA 1080 (CPA)
2. **ACCOUNTANT I** - Item No. OMBA-A1-2-1998; SG-11
   Education: Bachelors degree in Commerce/Business Administration major in Accounting; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility RA 1080 (CPA)

B. PLANNING AND BUDGET DIVISION

1. **BUDGET OFFICER I** - Item No. OMBA-BUDO1-1-1998; SG-11
   Education: Bachelors degree relevant to the job; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility
2. **PLANNING OFFICER I** - Item No. OMBA-PLO1-1-1998; SG-11
   Education: Bachelors degree relevant to the job; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility

Interested applicants should submit within ten (10) working days from the date of this publication to the Human Resource Management Division at the above address, the following requirements:

1) A letter stating the position applied for;
2) Duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (CSC Form 212);
3) 1" x 1" picture (colored)
4) *Bar/Board Rating or CSC Certificate of Eligibility;
5) *Transcript of Records;
6) *Certificate of Seminars/Training attended;
7) *Service Records or Certificates from previous/present employers stating the positions assumed and corresponding actual duties and responsibilities (if applicable)
8) *Performance Appraisal Reports for the last two rating periods (for current government employees only);
9) Statement duly signed by the applicant as to any relative(s) within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity, currently employed with the Office of the Ombudsman.

*Where photocopies are filed, the documents must be certified as true copies by the proper authorities or the applicant may present the originals to the Human Resource Management Officer for comparison with the photocopies.

H. No. 2659
S. No. 1952

Republic of the Philippines
Congreſs of the Philippines
Metro Manila
Thirteenth Congreſs
First Regular Seſsion

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-sixth day of July, two thousand four.

[Republic Act No. 9338]

AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO MAHMOUD A. M. ASFOUR

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

Section 1. Mahmoud A. M. Asfour is hereby granted Philippine citizenship with all the rights, privileges and prerogatives appurtenant thereto.

After the taking and registration of the oath of allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines, Mahmoud A.M. Asfour shall enter into the full enjoyment of Philippine citizenship.

Section 2. This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved:

FRANKLIN M. DRILON
President of the Senate

JOSE DE VENECIA, JR.
Speaker of the House of Representatives

This Act which is a consolidation of House Bill No. 2659 and Senate Bill No 1952 was finally passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on February 23, 2005 and June 6, 2005, respectively.

OSCAR G. YABES
Secretary of the Senate

ROBERTO P. NAZARENO
Secretary General House of Representatives

Approved: July 28, 2005

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President of the Philippines

(PDI - Aug. 4, 2005)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
DILIMAN QUEZON CITY

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SURPLUS BUNKER-C AND OTHER JUNK ITEMS

"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING : August 23, 2005, 2:00 p.m., Solarium Hall, Bldg.-1 Grd. Floor, NPC HO, Agham Road corner Quezon Ave., Diliman, Q.C.

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding of the following scrap and junk items located at various NPC stations.

SCHEDULE - I

	Item Description and Location	Minimum Bid Price
1	Surplus Bunker-C (dead stock volume) located at Manila Thermal Power Plant Tank Nos. 2, 3 and 4. The sale includes the clean up to Tank Nos. 2, 3 and 4 to make the tanks suitable for "black product".	P 2,941,000.00/lot
2.	Contaminated Surplus Diesel and Bunker-C sludge oil at Aplaya DPP Tank Nos. HFO-1, 2, 3, and LFO Jasaan, Misamis Oriental. The sale includes the clean up of tanks to make the tanks suitable for "black product". Note: **Participating bidders must be DENR accredited waste oil Processors/Treaters**	P 4,765,801.65/lot

SCHEDULE - II

1	One (1) lot of junk station batteries, Al-Cd and Ni-Cd, 157 pcs. located at Pantabangan Hydro-Electric Power Plant.	P 15,700.00/lot
2	One (1) lot turbine oil and transformer oil (9 drums and 17 drums respectively) located at Pantabangan Hydro-Electric Power Plant, Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija Note: **Participating Bidders must be DENR accredited waste Oil transporter and treater for oils and industrial batteries.**	P 37,500.00/lot

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S/CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE OFFER.
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN (2004 ORIGINAL OR XEROX COPY) OF THE BIDDER
3. TAX CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE (VALID UP TO THE DATE OF BIDDING)

INTERESTED PARTY WHO WISH TO SECURE BID FORM MUST PRESENT VALID IDENTIFICATION CARD LIKE DRIVER'S LICENSE, GSIS ID, SSS ID, POSTAL ID, PASSPORT, PRC ID AND COMPANY ID.

Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding may secure the bid form at P500.00/set from Mr. Alfonso D. Alday, Manager, Warehousing, Inventory, Traffic and Asset Disposal Division (WITADD) at Bldg. 1, Ground Floor, NPC Head Office, Corner Agham Road and Quezon Ave., Diliman, Q.C. or call telephone no. 922-8431. **Deadline for issuance of bid form is 4:30 p.m. August 22, 2005.**

For the Materials Management Department
(Sgd.) FELIX B. TACATA, JR.
OIC, MMD

(PDI - April 7, 8 & 9, 2005)

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(632) 893-8374 to 77

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

Blessed are the merciful, for they will obtain mercy,
Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.
Matthew 5:7 and 8

In Loving Memory of

MA. ASUNCION "MARICHU" RODRIGUEZ-TINGA

(1 September 1939 – 5 August 1996)

On The Ninth Anniversary of Her Demise

Holy Masses will be offered tomorrow, 5 August 2005, at the following churches:

Sagrada Pamilya Parish Church, Taguig City	6:00 a.m.
Our Lady of Rosary Parish Church, Taguig City	6:00 a.m.
St. Michael de Archangel, Taguig City	6:00 a.m.
St. John de Baptist, Taguig City	6:00 a.m.
Sto. Niño Parish Church, Taguig City	6:00 a.m.
St. Peter the Fisherman, Taguig City	6:00 a.m.
St. Joseph Convent of Perpetual Adoration (Pink Sisters), Quezon City	6:00 a.m.
San Roque Parish Church, Pateros	6:00 a.m.
Immaculate Concepcion, Pasig City	6:00 a.m.
Archdiocesan Shrine of St. Anne, Taguig City	6:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
St. Alphonsus Mary De Liguori Church, Magallanes, Makati City	6:15 a.m.
Mary, Our Lady of the Poor, Taguig City	6:30 a.m.
Mary, Queen of the Apostle, Taguig City	6:30 a.m.
Divine Word Mission Seminary, Quezon City	6:30 a.m.
Carmel of St. Therese, Quezon City	6:30 a.m.
First Friday Devotion to Sacred Heart of Jesus, Taguig City Hall	12:00 n.n.
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Quezon City	6:00 p.m.
St. Ignatius de Loyola, Taguig City	6:00 p.m.
St. Joseph Parish Church, Taguig City	6:30 p.m.

Her loving husband **Dante**, children **Freddie, Ampi, Danju, Jonathan, Cecille** and **Rica**, daughter-in-law **Kaye**, sons-in-law **Norman** and **Hendrik**, grandchildren, brother **Ely** and sister **Vicky**, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law request relatives, friends and pious readers to continuously remember her in their prayers.

In Loving Memory Of

Jesus "Chitong" G. Sanchez

of MEVER FILMS, Inc.

passed away in the grace of our Lord on August 2, 2005 at the age of 75.

He is survived by: *Jose Bartolome* (son), *Camille Manlansing* (daughter-in-law), *Martine & Sebastian* (grandchildren)

Carmen "Melita" S. Regio and *Concepcion "Chitang" S. Rivera* (sisters), *Godofredo S. Rivera* (brother-in-law)
Marina Ortega, Amor Adonay, Daisy La Madrid, and Isabelita Araulllo (sisters-in-law), *nephews, nieces, grandchildren, friends & other relatives.*

He will be joining his departed loved ones:

Nilda Mistica (wife) *and Martin Peter "Marty"* (son)

The family requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence at 359 F. Ortigas St., Mandaluyong City.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 6, 2005 after the one o'clock Mass at The San Felipe Parish Church, Mandaluyong City.

HON. JUDGE MILAGROS VILLAFANIA CAGUIOA (Ret.)

May 19, 1920 - August 02, 2005

has peacefully joined her Creator.

Her grieving sisters, daughters, granchildren, nephews, nieces and other family members request friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan Memorial Park on August 12, 2005 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

OUR BELOVED TATAY

SK. PEDRO C. JAVIER

* OF GAGALANGIN, TONDO, MANILA
* BLACKTOWN, NSW, AUSTRALIA
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, ST. JOSEPH COUNCIL 3913
PADRE BURGOS ASSEMBLY

Peacefully joined our Lord & his wife ***ARSENIA L. DOMINGO*** *at the age of 88, last Tuesday, August 2, 2005.*

HIS BEREAVED CHILDREN
Bing & Ludy, Yeye Javier & Abet, Dionicia & Manny Velasco, Rico & Brenda, Josefina & Doy Motio & Arsenio "Enyong"
GRANDCHILDREN
Chito & Arlene, Girlie & Oliver, Sammy & Asia, Percival & Nice, Maita & Allan, Irving, Kevin, Ember.
Interment at Castlebrook, Kellyville, NSW, Australia on Saturday, August 6, 2005. **Please pray for his eternal peace in Heaven.**

"I rejoice when they said to me,
"Let us go unto the house of the Lord."
Psalm 122:1

PAZ T. DUQUE

of Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte

joined our Lord on Juy 31, 2005 at the age of 88.

Her beloved husband **Dr. Juanito C. Duque** (†); children **Gigi & Oscar, Doris & Manuel, Xinia & Fritz, Jan & Maritess, Earl & Ronnie, Andre, Franz-Joseph & Dolly**; grandchildren and great grandchildren request your prayers for her eternal rest.

Her body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 7, 2005 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, Metro Manila after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

OUR DEARLY BELOVED
"Lolo Mac"

LAUREANO M. MACALINTAL

Joined our Lord Jesus Christ on August 1, 2005 after sharing his life with us for 89 fruitful years.

His bereaved family: wife, **Irenea A. Macalintal** (†); children & in-laws, **Temy** & **Mely**, **Drs. Flor** & **Obin Torres**, **Ike** & **Baby**, **Guding** & **Cherry**, **Peachy** & **Tito Nolasco**, **Lita** & **Dr. Mike Miguel**, **Boy** & **Ellen**, **Emma** & **Eddie Dinglasan**, **Romy** & **Karen**, **Edna** & **Ceasar Bagul**; grandchildren and great grandchildren request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Basilica Immaculate Concepcion Mortuary, Batangas City.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 6, 2005 at Floral Garden, Kumintang Ibaba, Batangas City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Basilica Immaculate Concepcion, Batangas City.

"We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God."
2 Corinthians 4:14

Death Notices

LOURDES MENDOZA MENDIOLA

Peacefully joined her Creator on July 31, 2005 at the age of 85.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Inc., Araneta Ave., Quezon City. Interment will be on Friday, August 5, 2005 at Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina after the 9 a.m. Mass

IRMA RAMIREZ PARUNGAO-LLAGAS

Peacefully joined our Lord on July 31, 2005 at the age of 73 in California.

Interment will be on Friday, August 5, 2005 at Glenn Abbey Memorial Park, Bonita, California.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

METRO MANILA

• LAS PIÑAS

FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas, Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024

• MAKATI

DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City, Tel 894-5932 to 34

FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
885 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City. Tels. 890-3556; 899-8191

LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City;
Tels. 895-1011 to 19

MALABED FUNERAL SERVICE
3-A Coronado St., Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City, Tel 890-83-18

SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City. Tel Nos 843-8838/30. Fax No 843-9223

ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City, Tels. 852-8228, 852-7284

• MALABON

FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila;
Tels 2812963, 2813034, 2810522

• MANDALUYONG

SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044

• MANILA

DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave cor Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5126, 741-5133, Fax No. 711-3064

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave cor. T Mapua, Manila;
Tels 711-6931 to 35, 732-4795, 732-2827

POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
2141 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila; Tel Nos. 254-0867, 254-0839

ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila;
Tels 749-3679; 781-1772

UNIVERSAL FUNERAL SERVICE & MEMORIAL CHAPELS
2026 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila, Tels 493-4458, 493-4540

WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1611 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila; Tel 302-5447

• MARIKINA

ERIC SANTIAGO MEMORIAL CHAPELS
26 Bayanbayan Ave., Concepcion I, Marikina City;
Tels 942-6044, 475-1177

F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
9 V. Gomez & 13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City;
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Palace cuts tariffs on Asean goods, ethanol

By Ronnel W. Domingo and Abigail L. Ho

MALACAÑANG has removed the tariffs on 50 products imported from the four newest members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Signed last July 22, Executive Order No. 448 was issued in line with the country's commitments to the Asean Integration System of Preferences (AISP). It qualified 50 products, classified into four groups, from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam for duty-free importation under the program.

These are plants and parts of plants used in perfumes, medicines or for killing insect and fungi, including medicinal marijuana products (from Laos); vegetable products such as leaves of betel, biri and betel-nut; wood sawn or chipped that are thicker than 6 millimeters, and sheets for veneering, for plywood or for other laminated wood products that are thicker than 6 millimeters.

Also on July 22, President Macapagal-Arroyo issued EO No. 449 that brought down the tariff on bio-ethanol imports to be used for the government's Fuel Ethanol Program to 1 percent from 10 percent.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said that since there would be no locally produced ethanol up to 2007, the best way to encourage bio-ethanol fuel development was to reduce the import duty on ethyl alcohol.

Ethanol, or ethyl alcohol, is produced when crops such as sugar cane, cassava, corn and other agricultural feedstock are fermented and distilled. It is used as gasoline blend, a component of reformulated gasoline or a primary fuel with gasoline as a blend. Under the country's energy independence package, ethanol will be used as a gasoline blend.

In the meantime, the AISP, which is the Asean's version of a Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), is a unilateral offer made by six of the Asean member-economies but is implemented on a bilateral basis.

The AISP, however, requires that at least 40 percent of the content of the products to be covered should originate from the exporting country.

The AISP is meant to implement the Initiative for Asean Integration (IAI), which member-governments adopted in the 4th Asean informal summit held in 2000.

Although EO No. 448 has removed the tariff on cannabis or marijuana from Laos, a trade official said it did not mean that this product could actually be shipped into the country.

Cannabis is one of the cheaper means of drug abuse worldwide although certain groups, such as the International Association for Cannabis as Medicine, are promoting its use as medicine.

"Even if a product was assigned tariff specifications, it cannot be brought in if the law prohibits its use," the official said.

The products under EO No. 448 represented the second batch of the country's AISP package. The first batch, contained in EO No. 166 issued on Jan. 10, 2003, included 79 product lines.

Napocor seen to end 2005 in the black after 6 yrs of losses

By Abigail L. Ho

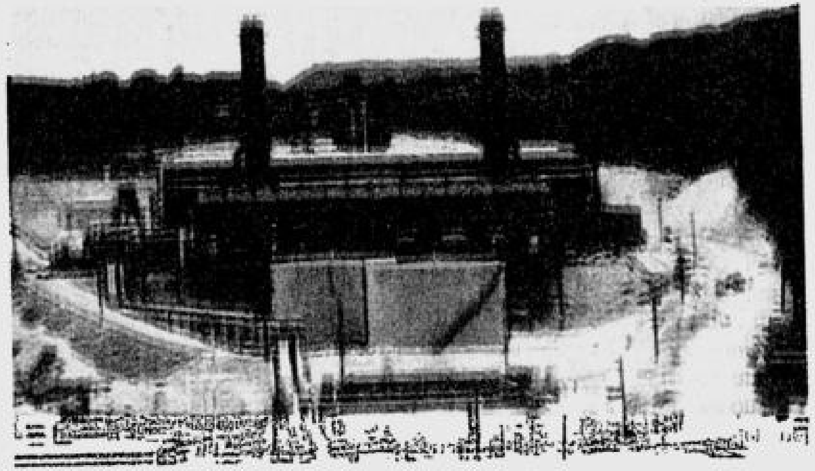
AFTER being the biggest drain on national coffers for several years, state-owned National Power Corp. expects to at least break even this year as its interest expenses and operational costs go down.

Projections made by Napocor's finance department showed that the turnaround, the first time since 1998, would be brought about mainly by the reduction in the state firm's interest expenses to P22.64 billion from P30.25 billion last year.

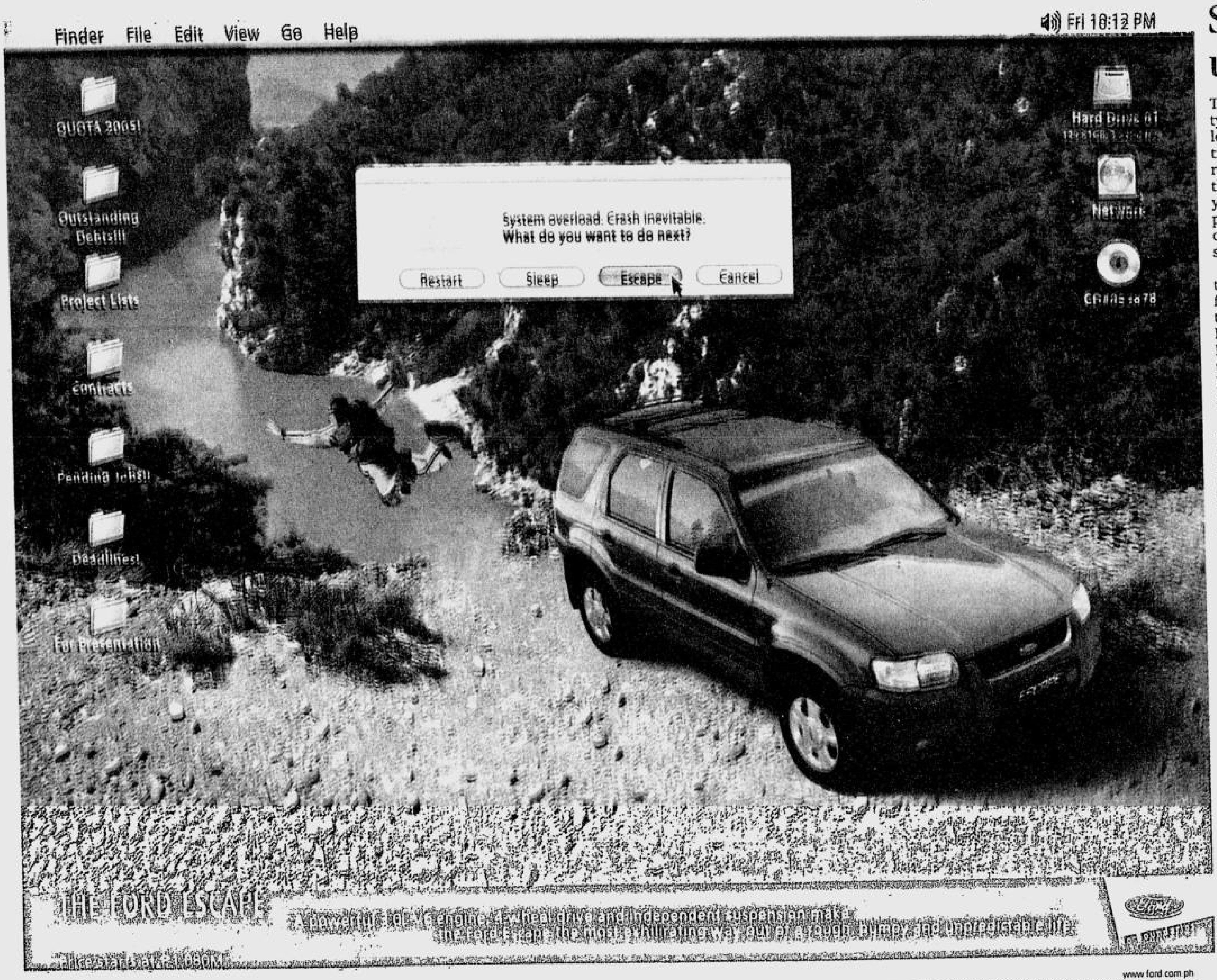
The reduction in interest charges stems from the government's absorption of P200 billion of Napocor's debts last year.

The Energy Regulatory Commission's full approval of Napocor's rate hike petition in April is also expected to contribute to the state firm's good performance this year. Napocor hopes to further boost sales this year by getting more customers.

"We're looking at all available markets, especially in the industrial sector and inside economic zones. There is an increasing demand for electricity all throughout the country. We are encouraged by our biggest customer, (the Manila Electric Co.), buying a lot of power from us," Napocor president Cyril Del Callar said in a briefing yesterday.



NAPOCOR hopes to further boost sales this year by getting more customers.



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SSS take up 7.3%

THE SOCIAL Security System said its collection of contributions from members rose by 7.3 percent in the first half of the year, attributing its performance to the ongoing campaign to shore up collections.

Based on data from the SSS, collections from January to June this year reached P23.146 billion, or P1.57 billion more than the P21.577 billion collected in the same period last year.

The SSS said that about 60 percent of the total contributions, or P14 billion, came from the National Capital Region (NCR). Of the total amount, NCR south—that includes the Makati financial district—chipped in P6.3 billion.

The SSS said it was planning to put up 10 additional offices in the NCR before the end of the year. It now has 34 branches in the region. It said it intended to put the additional branches in Commonwealth (Quezon City), Cainta, Las Piñas, Makati, Pasig, Parañaque, Pasay, San Mateo and Valenzuela.

Contributions from the Visayas and Mindanao amounted to P4.8 billion in the first six months of the year, exceeding the target of P4.2 billion by P400 million. SSS collections in the Visayas amounted to P2.6 billion and that in Mindanao reached P2.1 billion.

Michelle V. Remo

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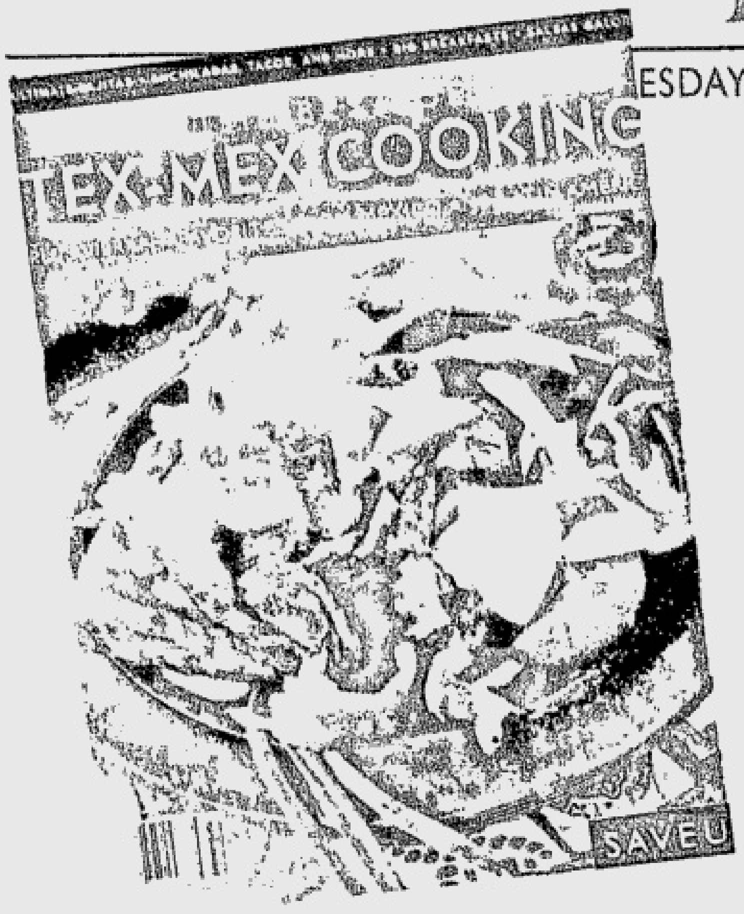
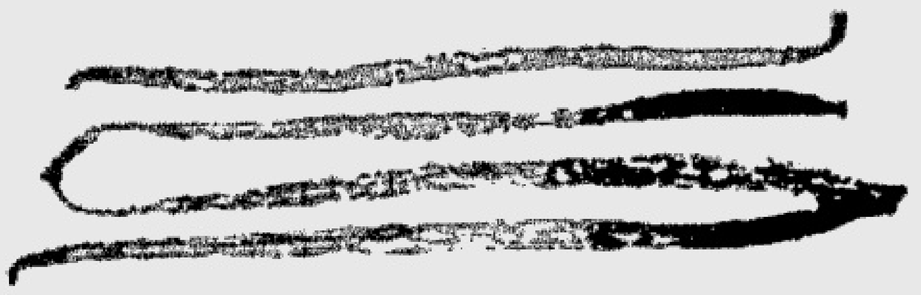
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

A BISTRO to love /C2




VANILLA

What a ride it's been!

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

IT NEVER dawned on me until yesterday that my baby, Kitchen Rescue, is now two-and-a-half years old. And as with any true-blue terrible two, it's been quite a ride on this thing called the learning curb, with its fair share of ups and downs. There remains much to discover, a whole world to explore and a lot of room for me to improve.

God has been so good. He has sent along my path a multitude of people to help me mold Kitchen Rescue to what it is today.

To my KR family: my colleagues in the business who are always there to rescue me when I'm stumped and whose individual talents they so unselfishly share; people who, for their love of food, create dishes that are worth writing about; those who go out of their way to text me to show appreciation for what I do and those who trust me enough with their questions; those who spare me 10 minutes of their time to read KR and put up with my bouts of insanity—I figured I cannot let two years pass without saying *salamat po*! Kitchen Rescue is proof that it takes a village to raise a child. And this child is as much yours as it is mine. And as my dad used to say: On we go, to spread the sunshine!

> Kitchen Rescue
> is proof that it takes
> a village to raise
> a child. And this child
> is as much yours as it
> is mine

Good news

I bumped into two wonderful people at Humphrey's a few weeks ago—Tony Boy Escalante and Florabel Co.

But before that, let me tell you that one of the most "pristine" (the only word I can use to describe it) tasting wines I've ever tried is from P-45's wine library—Miguel Torres, Chile, Santa Digna 2001, Cabernet Sauvignon. All wine aficionados should call 7180832 to get a bottle.

Now back to the chefs. Who doesn't know the famous and talented Tony Boy? He's recreating his menu for Antonio's and it should be ready by the first of September.

The exciting news is about his latest playground, a restaurant called The Grill. What are we to expect? Well, simply the best *inasal*! I've not found the time to go but, as I always say, there are certain things that I expect of certain people and, undoubtedly, from this chef I expect no less than perfection.

The Grill serves honest-to-goodness Pinoy food. Specialties include *batchoy* with *puto*, *laing*, *chicharon bulaklak*, *pata tim* with *cuapao*, *bangus dagupan*, crispy pork *batok*, and *sinigang*—choice of *bayabas*, *sampalok* or *mangga*! That sounds *namit gid*! Call Antonio's at (046) 4134847. The Grill is at One Destination, Maharlika Highway, Tagaytay (0917-7020528).

Those inquiring about herbs and where to get them cut or potted should call Tony Boy's wife, Agnes, at 0916-4668118. Their herbs are great! To my dear Tony Boy, congratulations and good luck!

And who doesn't remember chef Florabel from Le Soufflé? Soon she'll be opening a restaurant of her own. In the meantime, if you're sick of your South Beach food, she has created a brand new menu, and she delivers! Call 7839246 or 0917-8117334.

Vanilla

Tahitian Vanilla is now grown locally and vanilla beans are now readily available. I was given a few sticks to try and, unlike a lot of vanilla beans available here, these get to you nice and moist, not dry, hard and brittle! For those who are unaware of it, vanilla is extracted from vanilla beans. Best part is they're cheap! Call Karin Carmona at 8928286 or 7523330/32. Oh, and they sell fruit juices, as well as frozen fruit and nut purées for pastry.

Cookbooks

Thank you for your cookbook recommendations. Mőre suggestions please.

FELICI P.

This is another great book, one of the best publications on Tex-Mex cooking I've come

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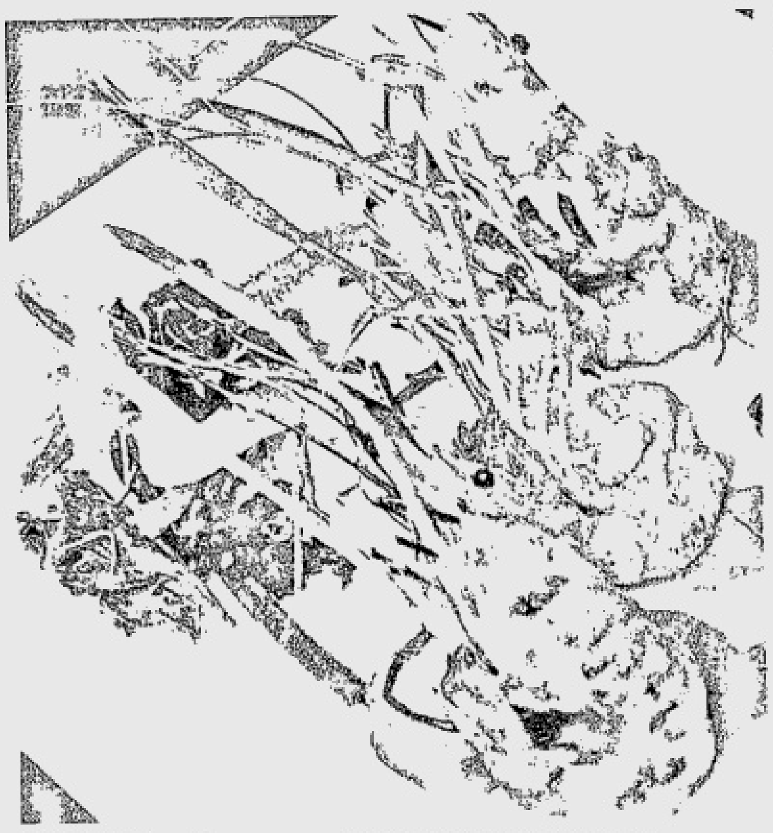
Lovin' La Vigne

This bistro with a short and sweet menu and well-stocked wine cellar is guaranteed to inspire nothing but affection

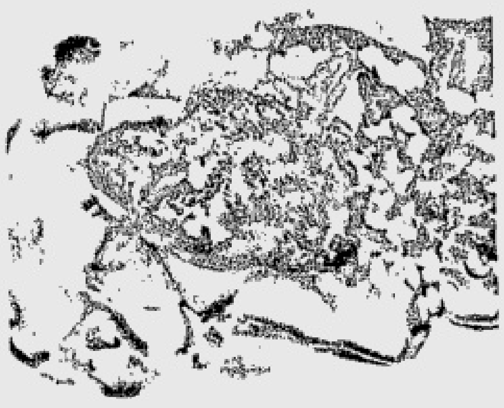
SAUTEED *pampano* fillet uses a unique corn flan as a side dish.

BONE marrow with oxtail marmalade

RISOTTO La Vigne uses parmesan cheese and the not-so-common Cèpes mushrooms



NOT YOUR ordinary prawns. Chef Jose uses the rare *ulang*.



FOIS GRAS with minted papaya

DEVIL'S Foodcake

CHEF Jose Sotto and wine importer Tita Trillo: wining and dining made truly fine

By Margaux Salcedo
Contributor
Photos by Raffy Lerma

MASQUERADING as a wine cellar, La Vigne (*lah-veén*) Bistro at the end of Yakal Street in Makati has all the qualities of "that quaint little restaurant down the road" you will absolutely adore. (For the mall rats reading this, Yakal is parallel to Buendia after Malugay.)

The ambiance is obviously French, complete with faux finish walls and floors and dim lighting. The walls are adorned not with paintings but with shelves of wine, from which collection you may select a bottle for your meal. And the staff is impressively well-versed with *vino* lingo (owner Tita Trillo even sent her dining manager to France to acquire an appreciation and learn the language of wines). Ongoing is La Vigne's version of the happy hour. On Mondays, Tuesdays and Saturdays, 6-8 p.m., guests can drink as much varietal wine as they can with free appetizer for only P495.

But more than the ambiance or the wine, I was loving La Vigne for its menu. Short and sweet (10 starters, 10 main dishes), it boasts of a selection where each dish was dreamed of, create and then lovingly (or shall we say La Vigne-ly?) prepared by New York-trained (Culinary Institute of American then Gotham Bar and Grill) chef Jose Sotto himself.

Mostly French

The menu is mostly French (*fois gras* for starters, *bouillaibaisse* for the main course) with a Sotto twist. The *fois gras*, which oftentimes has a tendency to be too rich, was served with minted papaya to balance the salty and fatty richness of its taste. The cheese risotto, which would otherwise be a predictable dish (with many known fancy takes on it—blue cheese, three cheese, goat cheese, etc.), was mixed with lime, which made it pleasantly original. The duck was paired with apricot chutney. Indeed, Sotto seems to have mastered the art of balancing the deadly with the friendly to produce for the palate a heavenly aftertaste.

Another reason to love La Vigne is that the ingredients are handpicked by the chef himself, and so are of top quality and oftentimes hard tó find. Instead of using common prawns, he uses, when available, *ulang* (giant freshwater prawn from the south); instead of portabello, he uses Cèpes mushrooms (aka *boletes* or *porcini* mushrooms) for his risotto, which are not your common table variety and have a strong musky taste perfect for pasta and rice dishes.

Inventive

Even the side dishes are inventive. Instead of rice or potato side dish, they serve *pampano* with a corn *flan* (yes, think *leche flan* in a rice cup but made instead with corn). I thoroughly enjoyed this concoction because it was soft and light and allowed my tongue to both concentrate on the fish and not tire of it easily (as opposed to downing rice and tasting the fish as an afterthought).

Dessert at La Vigne is an event of its own. Chef Sotto's wife, fashion designer Michi Calica, discovered Kazzie Sy, a creative, young pastry chef who can hold her own against the ingenuity of chef Jose. Once almost tied down by a famous red bakeshop, she was convinced by the Sottos to take the road less traveled (in her case, Yakal) to have the space to explore her creativity in pastries.

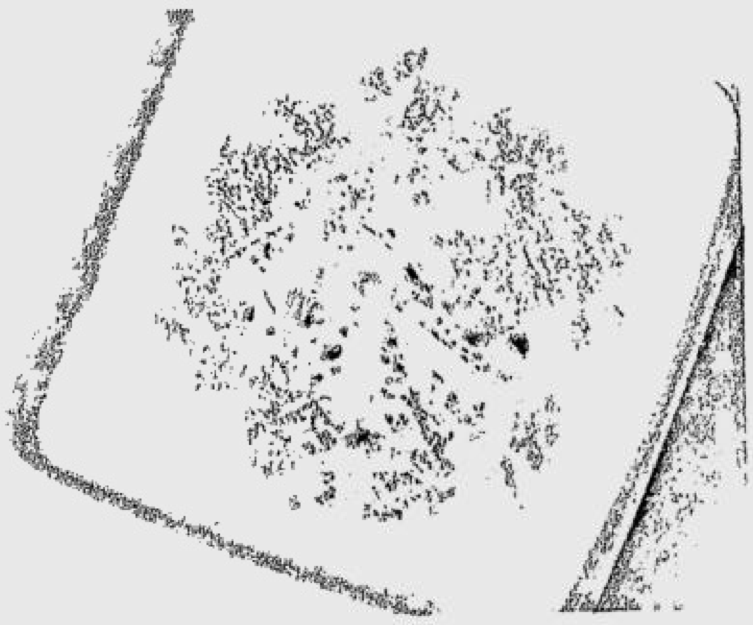
Kazzie's chocolate cake (they call it Devil's Foodcake) is soft and moist as it should be, but what got my attention was a miniature *banig*-looking peanut brittle-like flat candy on its side. No, it wasn't peanut brittle, but caramelized carrot! After learning that Kazzie carefully molded each strip of caramelized carrot to form the woven texture of a mat, it felt like sacrilege to take another bite. (But I gave in anyway!)

Another creative invention of Kazzie is her Bibingka Pot De Crème. Pot de crème's traditional flavor is vanilla, with chocolate a favorite variety, but Kazzie got adventurous and used salted egg and coconut milk to achieve a unique *bibingka*-ish flavor. For those of you who care for dessert but nothing too sweet, this is the perfect alternative.

Overall, La Vigne is well worth the travel away from the action-packed mall. It's a bistro for the cultured, the creative, the couples and the curious. The prices are competitive but not over the top (P160-P350 for starters; P395-P695 for main courses, with exceptions). I guarantee that it won't even take five mouthfuls before you're loving La Vigne.

La Vigne Bistro is at 7435 Yakal St., San Antonio Village, Makati. Call 8941373.

E-mail the author at margauxsalcedo@yahoo.com.



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Seafood bounty

DINING OUT

MANDARIN Oriental Manila's Tin Hau presents Live Seafood Bounty on Aug. 15-28. Specialties in an a la carte menu for lunch and dinner include Steamed Live Scallop Shell cooked in black bean sauce; Steamed Live Abalone in shell with garlic; Stir-fried Maine Lobster on e-fu noodles; Live Pink Grouper with sate sauce; Live Green and Red Lobsters served steamed with garlic or black bean sauce; sauteed with lemon and butter and supreme soup or sate *sotanghon* in hotpot; Steamed Live Tiger Grouper with soy sauce or black bean sauce; Steamed Red Crabs with Fa Tiu wine; and Stir-fried Coconut Crabs with leeks and ginger. Call 7508888.

ITALIANNI'S Restaurant offers new salads which go perfectly with everything on their menu. With a minimum purchase of P1,000, you get a free salad of your choice. The all-new entrées include Italian Sausage, Smoked Salmon and Shrimp and the Veneto Salads. Available at all Italianni's branches in Greenbelt 2, Greenhills, Eastwood-Libis, Glorietta 4, Alabang Town Center, SM City Bicutan, Tomas Morato and Gateway Mall-Cubao.

DUSIT Hotel Nikko's Thien Duong offers the top five dishes from Hanoi this August. Featured are Spicy Squid Cake with hot sauce, Stir-fried Beef with lemongrass and chili, Pan-fried Fish sliced with dill leaves, mint and coriander, Roasted Chicken with lemon leaves and chili, Braised Pork Rib in black peppercorn sauce. Call 8673333.

MANILA Diamond Hotel's Yurakuen introduces its special dish of the month, Gomoku Hiyamugi, cold wheel noodles topped with shrimp, eel and fish cake. Also featured is Matcha Bavarois, authentic Japanese green tea. The hotel's Palm Court Cafe serves Asian Buffet for lunch and dinner every Friday. Dishes include Beef Salad with Sprouts, Rice Paper wrapped Spring Rolls, Sour and Spicy Prawn Soup, Pancake stuffed with Roast Ground Beef and Curry Sauce, Khmer Pork Skewers, Bali Fish and Sweet Coconut Rice Balls. Call 5283000.

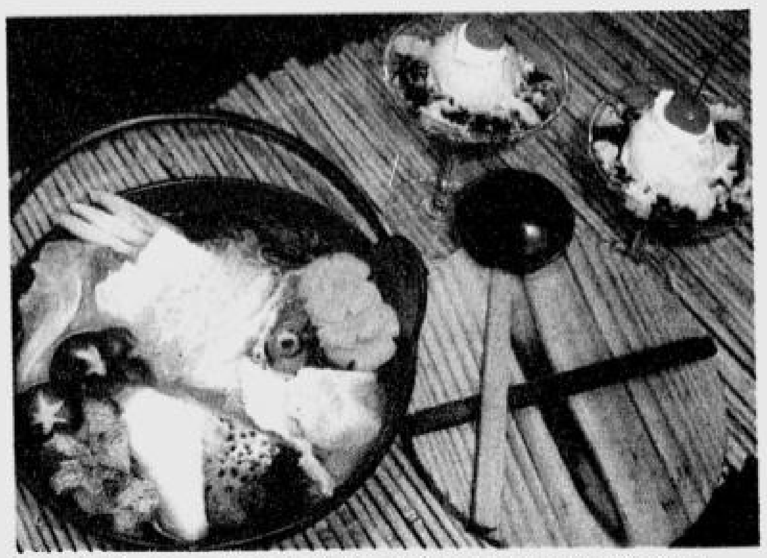
PEKING GARDEN offers a new menu which includes Minced Lamb Mongolian style with sesame puffs; Stewed Fish Fillet with Bamboo Pith; Sauteed Patola with Fresh and Dry Scallops; Diced Fish with Pine Nuts in Rice Wine Sauce Dish; Golden Prawns with Salted Eggs; Sizzling Beef with hot chili and Chinese spices. Peking Garden is at 2/L, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City. Call 8179066/67.

JADE GARDEN offers Mixed Seafood with Beancurd in Portuguese sauce hotpot (with squids, scallops, prawns and fish fillet); lomua (sea eel) in four mixed flavors; Lapu-lapu Fillet and Pumpkin in tausi sauce hotpot; Soupy crab Chiu Chow style, with Taiwan patola hotpot; Prawns with Misua in satay sauce; Sweet and Spicy Chicken, Thai style. Jade Garden Fine Dining Cantonese Restaurant is at Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center, Makati City. Call 8922319/ 8124548.

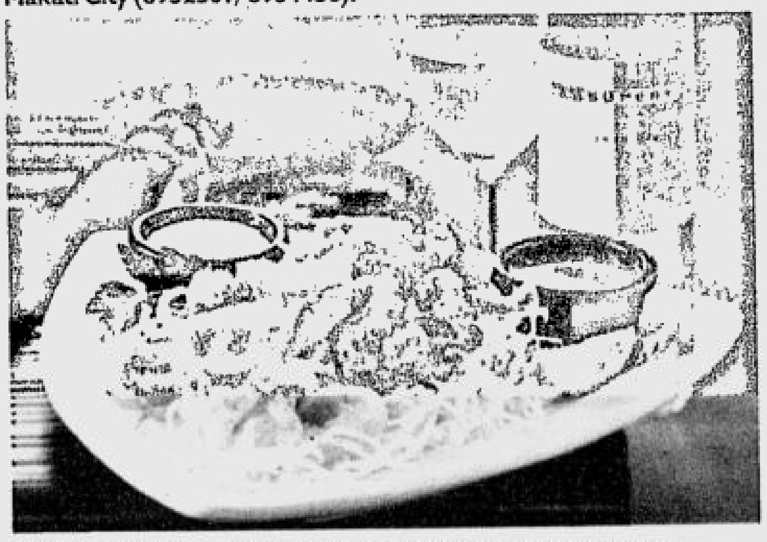
UCC Coffee presents sweet endings to its Japanese fusion meals with Blueberry Cheesecake, Tiramisu, Apple Crumb Pie a la Mode or Choco Fudge Cake, first introduced at UCC Tomas Morato, with the siphon-brewed coffee. UCC has branches at Tomas Morato, Quezon City; Connecticut St., Greenhills, San Juan; The Podium, Ortigas Center; Forbes Town Center, Taguig City; and Paseo Center, Makati City. Soon to open is UCC Westgate Center, Alabang.

CASA ARMAS offers Churros con Chocolate, crisp churros pretzels dipped in a cup of rich Spanish hot chocolate. Casa Armas is located at the 2/F Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas Avenue cor. Sedeno Street; 3rd level, Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center (7574961); 132 Jupiter St., Bel-Air Village, Makati (8973542); The Podium, 18 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong (6873663).

CRUSTASIA Podium features Fidel's Pepper Crab, Raymund's Spicy Salt and Pepper, Crab Maritess, Pacific Nile Snapper Filler, Vietnamese Chicken Curry, Black Marlin in Claypot, Grilled Squid Thai Style, Visayan Red Snapper, Sticky Saigon Pandan Cake, Coco Pandan Flan, Fried Ice Cream and Thai Halo-Halo. Crustasia Podium is located at the 3rd level of The Podium, 18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong.



KIMPURA offers nabemono (hotpot) dishes. Each piping hot dish serves two diners. The very popular sukiyaki comprises beef slices, tofu and Japanese wine, with a choice of either Japanese beef or US beef. The Japanese shabu-shabu is served with spicy peanut sauce, along with beef slices, tofu, noodles and vegetables. Kimpura nabe is a combination of chicken, beef, pork, salmon, noodles and vegetables with miso flavor. Along with the other nabemono dishes, every order of any nabemono gets two complimentary coffee jelly for dessert. Kimpura Japanese Restaurant has branches at Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan (7218816/69) and 2/L, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City (8932307/ 8934456).



CALIFORNIA Pizza Kitchen presents BBQ Chicken Pizza, Ahi Martini, Bangkok Calamari, Lettuce Wraps, Tuna and Greens Salad, Waldorf Chicken Salad, White Pizza, Tuna Melt Pizza. Visit CPK Makati (8939898/ 9999); CPK ATC (8505771); CPK Shangri-La Mall (6877841/ 42); and Tomas Morato (3727371/ 72).

SUSHI-YA has an ongoing party promo. For any order of Sushi-Ya Platter or 9 pieces of Shrimp Tempura, get a pitcher of San Miguel Light Draft Beer for P110. For every Bento Box take-out order, get a free iced tea. Promo is offered at Sushi-Ya Ortigas, Megastrip, Megamall B.

Call for entries to food writing contest

THE SUBJECT matter for the 4th Doreen Gamboa Fernandez Food Writing Award is the Filipino Food Specialist.

Specialists are persons, groups of persons, restaurants, food services, producers or manufacturers in a locality, province or region that need not be known nationwide. Filipino food, for purposes of this contest, is an ingredient, recipe or preparation that has been part of Philippine cuisine, whether nationally or locally for at least 50 years.

Examples of Filipino food specialists: your neighborhood bakery, the *ensaymada* maker you order from, the *sorbetes* factory, a *panciteria*.

This year's contest emphasizes the use of interview or oral history in doing the food research. Entries should therefore include the names of those interviewed and their contact numbers or addresses so that the veracity of the research can be checked. If printed references were used, entries should include a bibliography.

All entries should be in essay format, in English, with not less than 4,500 characters and not more than 5,000 characters (800 words), printed on two short bond papers, double-spaced. This year, all entries are required to also include a digital file, either a Word (.doc) or a rich text file (.rtf) document saved to a floppy disk or CD. Use a pen name printed on the essay but submit a separate envelope containing your (1) name, (2) pen name, (3) residential address and phone number (4) cell phone number (5) e-mail address. Include your business address and phone number if you work. If enrolled, include school name, address and course/ level.

All contestants can submit a maximum of two entries, each with a different pen name. Submit to: Doreen Gamboa Fernandez Food Writing Award 2005, IWFS Manila Ladies Branch Awards Committee, PRISM, 5th floor, PDAF Building, Senator Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City 1200. Send via special delivery to get a receipt. Hand delivered entries will also be given receipts. No emailed entries will be accepted.

Deadline for submission is Sept. 15. Call 8909666 and look for Girlie Canlas or email dgfawards@yahoo.com.ph.

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Mas pinasarap!
May pampalakas pa!
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Email: cafeysabel@mydestiny.net

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE
RECREATIONAL AND ONE-DAY BUSINESS CLASS

BAKING CLASSES

August 08, Monday - A CLASS FULL OF BROWNIES 2. Whether Business or for the Home these original and great tasting brownies are also easy to make. Chef Junjun demonstrates Black Bottom Brownie with Pecans, Mint Brownies, Pistachio Brownies, Chocolate Rocks, White Chocolate-Macadamia Blondies and Fudgy Orange Liquor Brownies for P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

August 17, Wednesday - FAVORITE COOKIES AND BARS 1. Chef Junjun presents scrumptious baked goodies he grew up with like Nutty Butterscotch Bars, Oatmeal Mango Cookies, Honey Orange Bars, Rocky Road Bar, Amaretti Cookies and Newman's Mistake for P1,000.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

August 19, Friday - BAKING MADE EASY. This class is for all beginners in baking. The recipes are simple, popular and good for business. Chocolate Chip Cookies, Rum Bundt Cake, Banana Loaf, Lemon Bars and Strawberry Shortcake will be demonstrated to you by Chef Junjun De Guzman for P1,000.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 4:00 p.m.

August 20, Saturday - CHEESECAKES: WITH A DIFFERENCE. Chef & Food Columnist Adoree Chong Uy will present new ways to prepare cheesecakes. Recipes include Ube Mousse Cheesecake, Langka Cheesecake, Mango Cheesecake, Dalandan Curd Cheesecake, Pandan Cheesecake and Green Tea Cheesecake for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10.00 4:00 p.m.

August 24, Wednesday - FAVORITE COOKIES AND BARS 2. Chef Junjun demonstrates definitely scrumptious Christmas baked sweeties for your Holiday Season giveaways such as Pecan Doodles, Toffee Crunch Bars, Double Chocolate Squares, Macadamia White Chocolate Cookies, Peanut Butter Cookies and Mango Cream Cheese Cookies. Recipes include all ingredients for P1,200.00 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

August 26, Friday - COOKIES GALORE. A collection of new recipes for all cookie lovers from Chef Junjun de Guzman; let's all do: Cashew Fudge Cookies, Crunch Cookies, Oatmeal Choco Chip Cookies, Graham Pecan Cookie and Cardamom Almond Cookies for P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

August 29, Monday - YUMMY BAKED GOODIES. Welcome Chef Hannah Herrera, our latest addition to the CACS faculty formerly DOME Café's Kitchen Operations Manager. She will demonstrate her favorite baked goodies such as Angel Food Cake, 2 Variations of Pound Cake, White Chocolate Pecan Bars, Strawberry Cream Puff and Mango Cream Puff for P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

August 31, Wednesday - FAVORITE COOKIES AND BARS 3. New and different baked creations to give your family and friends. You'll surely enjoy fun filled class with Chef Junjun making: Chewy Choc Chip Cookie, Cherry Chocolate Sweeties, Gingersnaps, Choco Hazelnut Caramel Squares, Orange Almond Biscotti and Dark Oatmeal Cookies for P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 4:00 p.m.

COOKING CLASSES

August 03, Wednesday - CLASSIC PASTA SAUCES. Aglio E Olio (Garlic and Olive Oil), Pesto Alla Genovese, Pomodoro e Basilico (Tomato and Basil), Puttanesca, Primavera (Vegetables and Cream), All Alfredo and Carbonara are distinct Italian pasta sauces Chef Junjun will be demonstrating. For P1,000.00 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. including all ingredients.

August 05, Friday - EASY THAI HOME COOKING. Easy to prepare original Thai home cooking recipes like Prik King Tua (Spiced Pork with Yard Beans), Phak Bung Kapi (Water Spinach in Shrimp Paste), Khao Pad Sapparot (Fried Rice with Pineapple), Ladna, Pat Kaprow Nua (Beef with Holy Basil) and Khanom Saku Thaeng Tai (Melon and Sago with Coco Milk) from Chef Gene Gonzalez for you to learn. Recipes include all ingredients from 10:00 - 3:00 p.m. for P1,200.00 including all ingredients.

August 06, Saturday - SIMPLE JAPANESE MEAL 1. Chef Gene Gonzalez will teach us simple and easy to prepare Japanese meal with recipes like Wakame Soup, Ebi Tempura, Upkatsu, Chawan Mushi, and Chicken Katsu. Recipes include all ingredients for P1,200.00 from 10:00 - 3:00 p.m.

August 09, Tuesday - SIMPLE CHINESE MEAL FOR THE HOME 1. Learn exotic flavors and delicious meals with just stir fry method from Chef Gene's travel collection. Recipes include Black Sauce Spareribs, Three Colored Eggs, Steamed Crabs with Eggs, Oyster Omelet with Fermented Bean Curd, Spicy Dry Chicken Curry and Salted Fish and Chicken Fried Rice for P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 3:00 p.m.

August 10, Wednesday - MODERN AND EASY PASTA SAUCES 2. The Sequel to Chef Junjun's class ---- now he will do simple sauces made with extraordinary ingredients - definitely a palate enhancer. Let's see him demonstrate Chicken and Chorizo Lasagne, Fettuccine with Shrimp Pesto, Smoked Salmon Linguine, Pasta alla Rustica, Ziti with Beef Short Ribs and Oga's Pasta Salad for P1,200.00 from 1:00 4:00 p.m.

August 11, Friday - THE GREEN TABLE. If rich food is too much for your palate here's a good break for the season. Recipes include Chick Pea Dip, Roasted Eggplant Puree, Saracen Salad, Yogurt Cucumber Relish, Chicken with Dried Lemon, Lamb Souvlaki and Phyllo with Honey and Cheese. P1,200.00 from 10:00 - 3:00 p.m.

August 12 - 13, Friday - Saturday - THE COFFEE CLASS 1 & 2. Learn from Chef Gene Gonzalez, the tastemaster of coffee and consultant designer to several coffee house systems teach you hands-on the basic of making proper and profitable cups of Americano, Espresso, Cappuccino, Lattés, etc. The class will also touch on the basics of blending, machine and costing on the first day. Day 2 will cover exciting and high profit cold coffee concoctions with creative topping and syrups such as Mocha Madness, Café Seville, Café Tortoni, Coffee Jelly etc. The course is open to both restaurant operators and hobbyists. Recipes include all ingredients from 1:00 - 4:00 for P3,000.00 for the 2 days.

August 18, Thursday - SIMPLE JAPANESE MEAL 2. Another set of easy and simple Japanese meal from Chef Gene Gonzalez will be demonstrated: The recipes are Kawaboko, Kani Korokke, Chicken Yakitori, Yakisoba, Gomoku Chahan and Japanese Miso Soup. Recipes include all ingredients for P1,200.00 from 10.00 - 3.00 p.m.

August 22, Monday - SUMPTUOUS SALMON 1. Let Chef Gene teach you 6 unique and tasty ways to cook Salmon that can be used in catering or for entertaining. Recipes include Salmon Cannelloni, Salmon Croquettes with Dill Mustard Sauce, Herb Crusted Salmon Fillet with Caper Beurre Blanc, Spinach Salmon Lasagne with Saffron Gratin, Salmon Mousse with Fish Roe in Horseradish Sauce and Poached Salmon Paupiette with Lemon Basil Whisk Butter Sauce for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 4:00 p.m.

August 25, Thursday - INFINITE TOMATO. Chef Gene will give you a lesson in this tasty, vitamin and lycopene packed tomato. Recipes include Salsa Pomodoro (Classic Italian Tomato Sauce), Spaghetti with Meatballs, Lapu-lapu al Gratin, Callos, Pollo Bolognese, Manscada plus a bonus recipe of Fresh Mango Tomato Salsa with Nachos for P1,500 including all ingredients from 11:00 - 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

August 27, Saturday - SIMPLE CHINESE MEAL FOR THE HOME 2. Dishes with exotic flavors from the east have never been this easy with Chef Gene's stir-fry method. Recipes include Deep Fried Bean Curd with Hidden Treasure, Bean Curd and Glass Noodles Soup, Steamed Eggs, Glass Noodles and Dried Shrimps, Fried Prawns with Curry Leaves, Fragrant Golden Chicken and Spicy Fish Fillet with Black Bean Sauce and Leeks for P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 10.00 - 3.00 p.m.

August 28, Sunday - SIMPLE PATE, CONFIT AND TERRINES. Chef's Terrine, Chicken Liver Pate with Pistachio Nuts, Duck Confit, Pork Rillettes, Salmon Terrine, Onion Jam and Ginger Confit are recipes from Chef Gene that you can make and give as present for the coming holidays. P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 3:00 p.m.

August 30, Tuesday - PASTA IN A FLASH 2. Another 8 quick, easy and delightful pasta recipes in one short period. Recipes include Porcini with Cambozola Sauce, Roasted Walnut Gorgonzola Sauce, Truffle Scented Liver Sauce, Seafood with Hazelnut Butter Sauce, Scallop and Shrimp Saffron Sauce, Chorizo and Chicken Tomato Cream, Mushroom Pancetta in Olive oil, Chicken and Shrimp Pesto are recipes from Chef Gene. For P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 1.00 - 4.00 p.m.

September 03, Saturday - GIFTS FROM THE KITCHEN. Chef Gene prepares an array of Holiday gifts your friends will appreciate and that are easy to prepare in the shortest possible time. Classic favorites such as Yema de Leche, Gourmet Tuyo, Grilled White Cheese, Aceitunas Aliñadas, Dulong in Olive oil, Matalasia and many more P1,200.00 from 10.00 - 3:00 p.m. Recipes include all ingredients.

September 29, Thursday - THAI FAVORITES 1. Bangkok Chef Chariya Thaikupt will teach her favorite Thai dishes like Tom Yam, Pad Thai, Chicken Pandan, Chicken Green Curry and Take in Pandan leaves. P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

September 30, Friday - THAI FAVORITES 3. Another set of recipes from Chef Chariya Thaikupt that you will all enjoy like Yam Pla Meuk (Squid Salad), Po Pia Kung (Shrimp Spring Roll), Pla Neung Manao (Steamed Fish with Manao), Khao Pad Sapparot (Pineapple Fried Rice), Panang Gai (Chicken Dried Curry) and Fried Banana Ice Cream for only P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 4.00 p.m.

WE WOULD APPRECIATE IF YOU COULD CALL AT LEAST TWO DAYS BEFORE THE CLASS FOR RESERVATION

DIPLOMA IN PROFESSIONAL CULINARY ARTS

The Professional Culinary Arts Program prepares students for professional entry into the food service industry. This intensive program integrates classical and modern culinary techniques from the finest institutions abroad with kitchen management skills. Students learn how to prepare soups, sauces, vegetables, entrees, breads, pastries and desserts. They will learn how to identify, fabricate and portion meat, poultry, fish and shellfish. The course will also provide the introductory skills on Asian and Halal cooking, wine appreciation, gastronomy, table service and back of the house operations. TESDA ACCREDITED PROGRAM. This program is a hands on training series for students to gain proficiency in various skills needed to perform at professional standards in a commercial kitchen. The students will also prepare buffets and be involved in actual functions. Learn the CACS method and be the Global Chef! Our program is the only school with its own restaurant outlet and its own internship program of 400 hours and Externship or an outside practicum program of 300 hours. It is also the only program with the mostly widely used software hospitality system worldwide that gives its graduates the global edge. Enrollment includes 3 sets of uniforms, chef's kit, manual and all the ingredients to be used. NO HIDDEN COSTS! Classes will start on September. Enrollment is ongoing. For inquiries and reservations, call 726 9326 or 725 5089 and look for Marilyn or Glady

Mall cooking demo, Aug. 5

ZEBRA Steel Cookware will introduce delicious and easy-to-prepare dishes in a cooking demonstration to be held at SM Makati 5-7 p.m., Aug. 5 and 26.

Professional chef and food consultant Adriel Cruz will conduct the cooking demo. Cruz is a graduate and former part-time instructor of the Center for Culinary Arts (CCA).

Learn how to make "Honey Barbecue Wings" in Zebra Sauce Pot and Fry Pan and "Steamed Tilapia with Garlic Coriander Mayo" in Zebra Sauce Pot with Steamer.

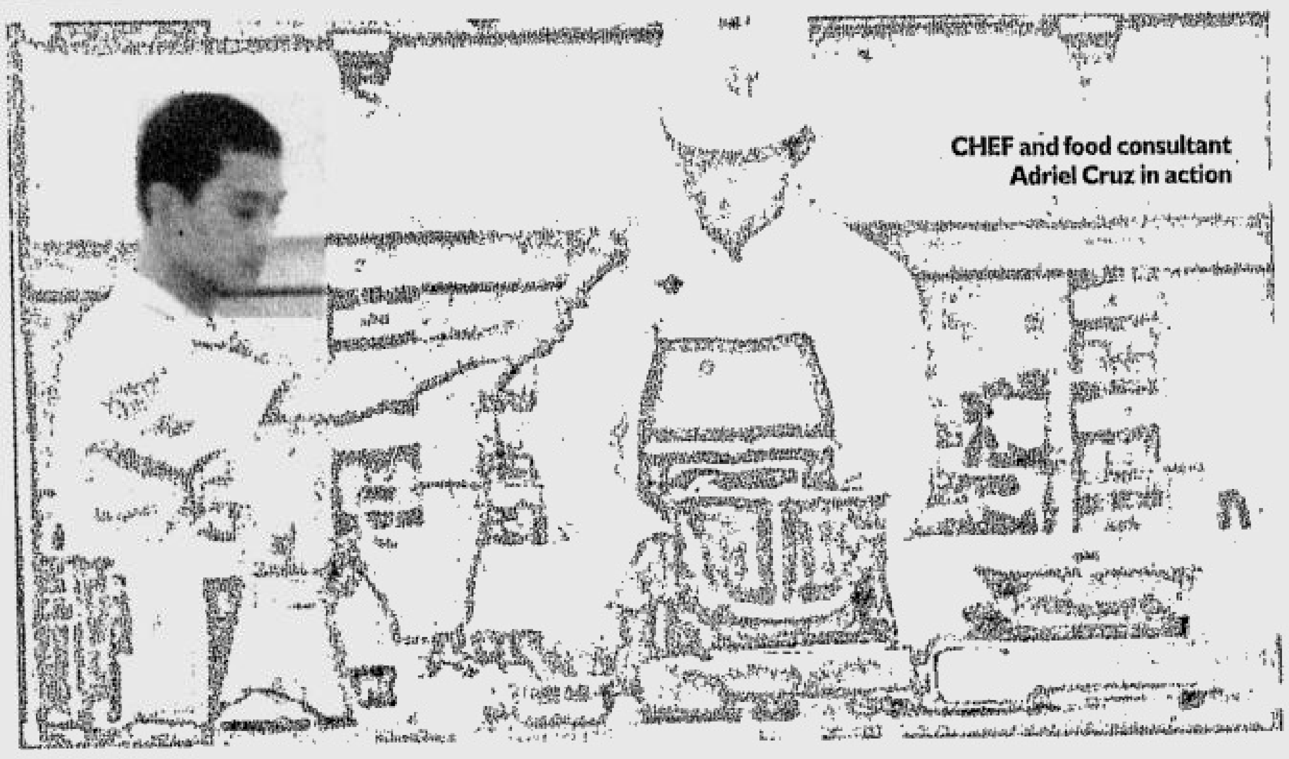
Cook the "Shrimp Bisque" in Zebra Sauce Pot and "Herb Chicken Pasta" in Zebra Fry Pan.

Raffles will be held after each cooking demonstration with Zebra products as prizes.

Zebra is a leading cookware brand in Thailand. It carries tableware, catering equipment, pots and pans, container and camping items, and kitchen tools, among others.

TENDER steamed chicken with ginger sauce

Zebra Steel Cookware products are available in leading department stores in the Philippines.


CHEF and food consultant Adriel Cruz in action

All the best, Carlo Rossi from California.

Lechon, a favorite Filipino dish, comes alive with every sip of Carlo Rossi.
Carlo Rossi California Red pairs perfectly with a popular array of Filipino festive dishes.

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What a ride it's been!

From page C1

across lately. The recipes are from the most famous restaurants in the world that serve authentic Mexican and Latin American food. Many of the recipes are heirlooms. From soup to nuts, this Saveur Special Issue is so complete. It has tips, history and cooking techniques. An excellent resource book for all taco, tortilla, empanada, mole, margarita, nacho and burrito freaks, as well as for any cookbook collector! Call Emerald Headway at 6474744.

White and embossed

I'm opening a restaurant [and I] want my plates plain white but embossed with business name. Would you happen to know a supplier?

MUTYA MACUNO
Tagbilaran, Bohol

Sure do: Noritake, Linda San Pedro, tels. 8330003/8330527 or Nican, tels. 2826151/ 2819199. (Thanks J. for the numbers!)

More tips

How do you avoid fruits like bananas, pears, apples and avocados from discoloring?

MAITE

I suggest you peel and slice them just before serving. However, you can squeeze out a bit of lemon juice onto the fruit and cover them with cling-wrap. Doing so prevents the fruit from oxidizing.

CUCINA liquid soap

I love to cook but hate the smell it leaves on my hands. Tried all kinds of soaps but nothing works.

W. IGNACIO

Cucina Soap works wonders! I love the coriander and olive oil! Oh, and their coffee candles make your kitchen smell so good even while cooking! Available at Fruits & Passion, Greenbelt 3. (Thanks, Victoria, for this discovery.)

For questions and comments text 0917-8399888.

INQUIRER
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ABC
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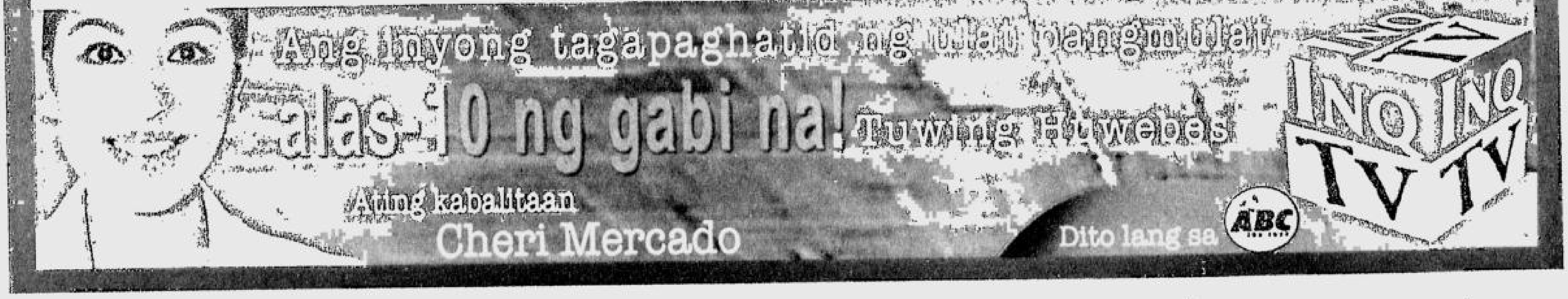
Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN						Teledyaryo	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)					Teledyaryo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)					
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Qpids	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Kampanerang Kuba	Green Rose	Ok! Feel Young	Masasabi Mo Kaya			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		World Pool Championships				Sentro	Jones Cup					Big News	Inq TV		ESPN Golf Kraft Nabisco Championship	
GMA 7	Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Friends	Shaman King	Full Metal Alchemist	Full House		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	Attic Cat	Magpakailanman			Saksi
RPN 9		Metro TV Shopping	Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberrys	Sponge Bob	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	WWE Smackdown		Dateline Specials		The Grid		Newswatch Now	Video Hit Parade	Kasangga Mo Ang Langit	Police Hour
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		MTV		Nuts	Outrageous	The Scene	King Of Adventure		IBC News Tonite	MTV	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop		New Life TV Shop				EZ Shop				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Superfine Tv Shopping		Shepards Voice	
Studio 23								Batman Beyond	Beyblade	Wazzup Wazzup	Birds Of Prey	Alias		Desperate Housewives		News Central	Oprah		Chefs On The Go
MTV Philippines			MTV Get Spotted			Hangin Out at MTV		TRL		MTV Play								MTV Play	
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Take 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Firsts	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Presents		My MYX	OPM MYX	MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	Global Office	World News Asia		Your World Today	
Solar Sports	TV Shopping		FIVB Montreux '05 Volley Masters			GWS	In This Corner		JVC Open 2005				Sports Desk	Spike TV's NBA Rookies		ATP Swedish Open '05			
Sports Plus				Tour De France Highlights		Celebrity Poker				Raceworld	Tour De France	NASCAR Pennsylvania 500 Pocono							
Cinemax			Dead Heat (3:45 PM)				Deconstructing Sarah			Introducing Dorothy Dandridge: A True Story				Single White Female			Hercules And The Lost Kingdom (10:45PM)		
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Strong Medicine		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	The Nanny	Sue Thomas: F.B Eye		Strong Medicine		Coll			Judging Amy (10:35PM)		Sue Thomas: FB Eye
Disney Channel	Mr Bean The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	So Little Time	Buzz Lightyear Of Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean The Animated Series	House Of Mouse				So Little Time	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Man Of The House	
Discovery Channel		Hour Asia				Wild Discovery				Evolver	One Step Beyond			The Ultimate Guide				Power Zone	
National Geographic				Marine Machine				Wildlife Detectives	Hayden Turner's Wildlife Challenge			About Asia							
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans	SD Gundam Force	Medabots	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Johnny Bravo	Time Squad	Thundercats	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Yakkity Yak	Chalkzone	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Rugrats
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fix	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Tyler's Ultimate	E! News Weekend		Good Finds	Life & Style		E! True Hollywood Story		Rapid & Track	Back To Basics
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	Invasion Iowa	Growing Up Gotti	Rock Star	Arrested Development	The Apprentice		Friends	Invasion Iowa
AXN		CSI: Miami (Season 3)		CSI: NY (Season I)		Ultimate Guinness World Records	Ultimate Guinness World Records	PSI Factor (Season III)		Beastmaster		Lost: The Journey (Special)		Lost		Sniper 2			
JackTV	Just For Laughs	Just For Laughs	Ride With Funk Master Flex					Cinematch	Family Guy	Mad TV		Reno 911	Crank Yankers	South Park	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Hip-Hop Nation	Ride With Funk Master Flex	WWE Velocity	
ETC		Significant Others	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Good Morning Miami	Committed	American Dreams		Queer Eye For The Straight Girl		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO	Vice Versa			Gridlock'd (4:05 PM)			Ride Or Die (5:40 PM)			Raiders Of The Lost Ark				A Man Apart			Disclosure (10:45PM)		
Star Movies		The 25th Hour				Boost (5:15 PM)			Opening Night (6:45 PM)	A Murder Of Crows (7:15 PM)				Life Or Something Like It			Grosse Pointe Blank		
EWTN	St. Faustina Divine Mercy In Our Souls	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Council Of Faith	Faith Factory D	Image Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Gospel Of Life In Health Care	Lord, Have Mercy	EWTN Live With Father Mitch Pacwa		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15 PM)	Suffering Of The God	Angels Of God	Your Vocation: God's Call In Your Life	The Journey Home	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.


Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat pangmulat,
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Super 08*06*05
~NBC Tent, The Fort
10AM Artists' Fair
A Super! bazaar
organized by KC Concepcion.
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

PDI FAMILY RECIPE CONTEST

Winners' circle

THE WINNING recipes in the PDI Family Recipe Contest this week were first cooked in the kitchens of Pampanga in the north, Albay in the south and Antique, which is even farther south.

The winner of P2,000 worth of SM Supermarket gift checks is John D. Lansang, who has had the good fortune of having a father who comes from a Pampanga town where the menfolk cook. Quiló is a traditional Kapampangan meat dish.

The winner of an Imarflex gift, Henedina B. Bongapat, is a reader from Imus, Cavite. She submitted a recipe for Telmok, which she claims to be a delicious and very affordable vegetable dish unique to Tabaco City, Albay.

And, finally, the winner of a certificate to a class of her choice at the Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts is Ma. Nora S. Gonzaga, whose family turned their surplus tomatoes into a candied, dried dessert called Dulce de Kamatis.

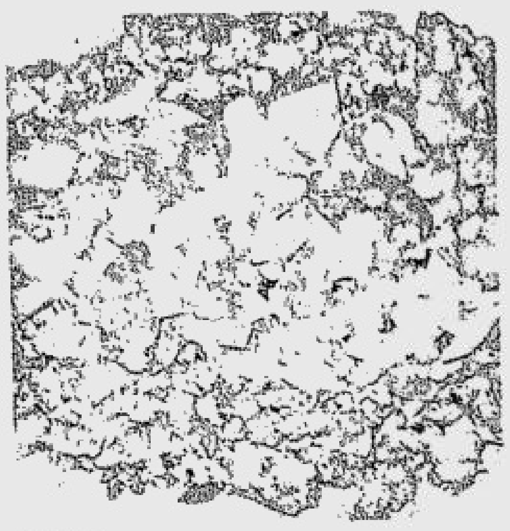
Winners should claim their prizes from Hazel Soriaga of the marketing department at the PDI offices at 1098 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City.

Readers are reminded that their entry must be a Filipino dish that has been cooked and served in their families through the years. It should be a dish that mostly features locally grown and locally produced ingredients and highlights traditional/local cooking techniques. The recipes they submit must not have been previously published or entered in any other contest.

Share your family recipes

WIN P2,000 worth of SM Supermarket gift checks, a gift from Imarflex or a class of choice at the Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts. Send us your favorite family recipe, along with a photo and a brief essay telling us (1) who in your family first cooked and served the recipe; (2) how many generations have cooked it; (3) when it is usually cooked and served; and (4) why it is special to the family. Include your name, address, daytime telephone number and e-mail address, if any.

Entries should be mailed or hand-delivered to PDI Family Recipe Contest, c/o Lifestyle, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1098 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City 1263, or e-mailed to **recipes@inquirer.com.ph**. Photo attachment to e-mailed entries must be in jpeg format. For contest details, e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph.



QUILÓ

Sizzling meat dish from Pampanga

By John D. Lansang

QUILÓ (accent on the second syllable) is a traditional Kapampangan meat recipe that is a favorite in our family. The word takes off from the Tagalog *kilaw* or the Visayan *kinilaw*—fish or meat recipes that are usually prepared and served uncooked. Quiló is different in that it is cooked very quickly over high heat.

I picked up this traditional Kapampangan recipe from my father, whom I assume learned it from his folks in Sta. Rita, Pampanga, where the menfolk take over the cooking chores during its May 22 town fiesta.

Sta. Rita is known as the only town in the Philippines that produces *duman* (a type of pinipig) which, at P2,000 per *ganta* (approx. 2 ½ kilos), is probably the most expensive and most delicious rice in the world. Our town is also renowned for its delicacies like *turrones de casuy*, sans rival, nougatines, etc.

Quiló is prepared using either pork or beef. Ground chicken breast or goat meat may also be used. Quiló can be served as *ulam* by itself. It's also great as *pulutan* or appetizer. *Siling labuyò* may be added to give it extra kick.

The sour *calamansi* base of Quiló makes it a dish that is described as "*masarap at hindi nakakasawa*," much like *sinigang*. It is easy, fast and simple to prepare — literally a 30-minute meal.

Quiló

½ k ground pork (*pigue* with little fat, ground once)
4 tbsp *calamansi* juice (about 15 pcs, big)
1 tsp rock salt
¾ tsp black peppercorn, freshly ground
2-3 pcs *siling panigang* or *labuyo*, sliced finely
2 pcs big red or white onions, diced
1 pc whole garlic, peeled and minced
2 tbsp cooking oil

Extract juice of 15 pcs big *calamansi*, removing seeds, to make 4 tbsp juice.

Slice *sili* into small pieces, the onions into small cubes. Set aside ¼ of *sili* and diced onions for use as topping later.

Mix first six ingredients thoroughly in a bowl; set aside in refrigerator for 30 minutes.

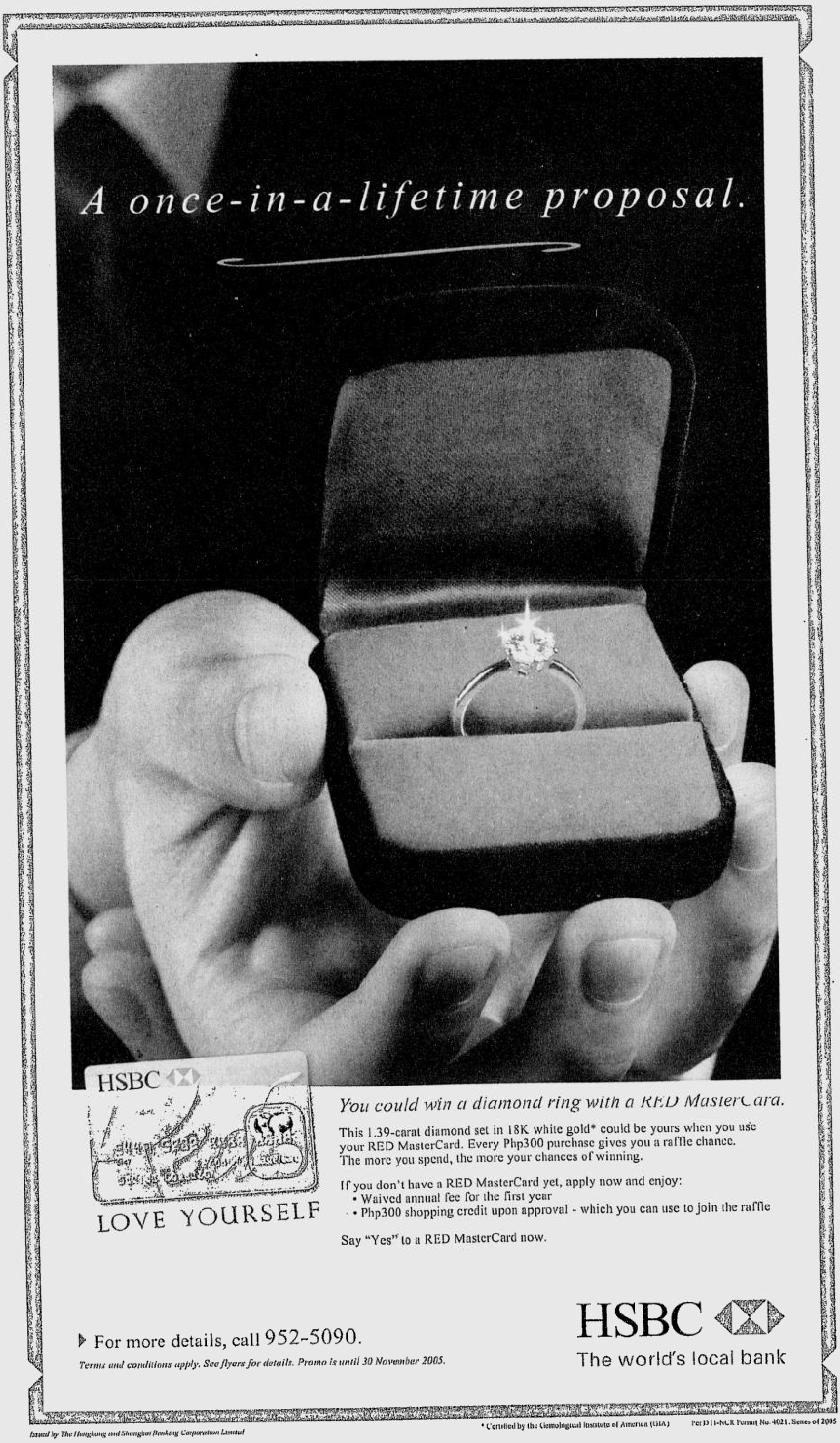
Heat *kawali* or wok, put 2 tbsp cooking oil.

When wok is very hot and oil has almost reached smoking point, throw in the minced garlic and brown lightly, followed immediately by the meat mixture. This should sizzle. Maintain high heat. Stir constantly for 2-3 minutes until the meat changes color and the meat juices come out. Do not overcook, do not allow the juices to dry up.

Put in a platter and garnish with the remaining chopped *siling panigang* and onions. Serve immediately.

Note: Ground chicken breast may be used also. Another variation is to use pork *lomo* or skinless chicken breast sliced into thin strips. The *calamansi* juice and the *sili* may be reduced or increased according to taste.

WINNERS/ D4



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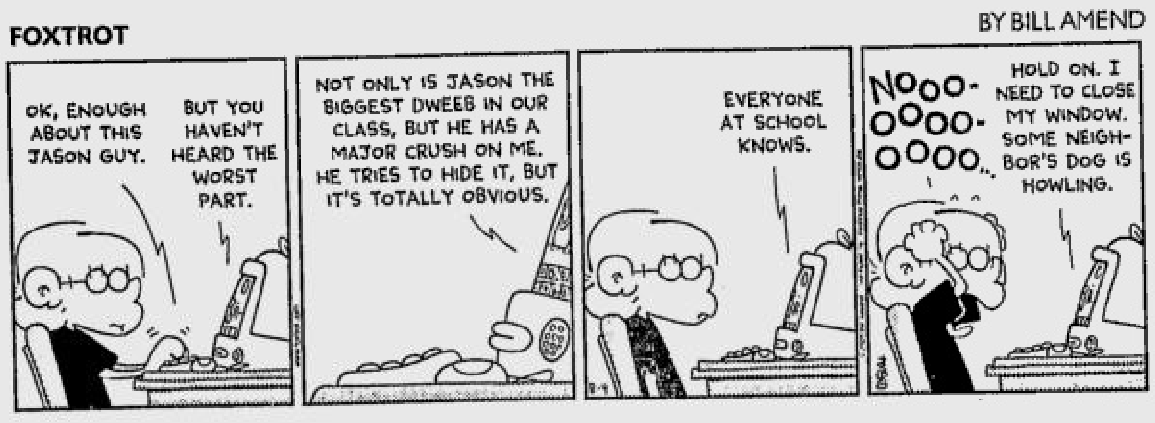
* Certified by the Gemological Institute of America (GIA)

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4021, Series of 2005

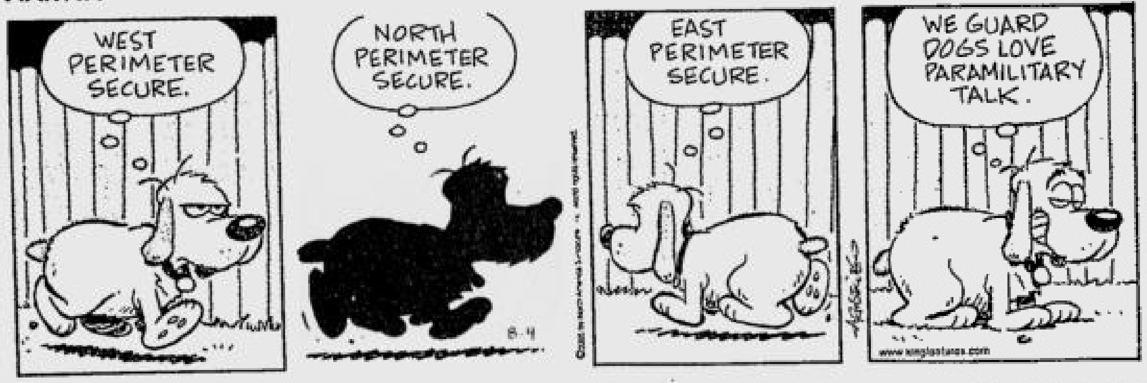
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


OK, ENOUGH ABOUT THIS JASON GUY.
BUT YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THE WORST PART.
NOT ONLY IS JASON THE BIGGEST DWEEB IN OUR CLASS, BUT HE HAS A MAJOR CRUSH ON ME. HE TRIES TO HIDE IT, BUT IT'S TOTALLY OBVIOUS.
EVERYONE AT SCHOOL KNOWS.
NOOO-OOOO-OOOO..
HOLD ON. I NEED TO CLOSE MY WINDOW. SOME NEIGHBOR'S DOG IS HOWLING.

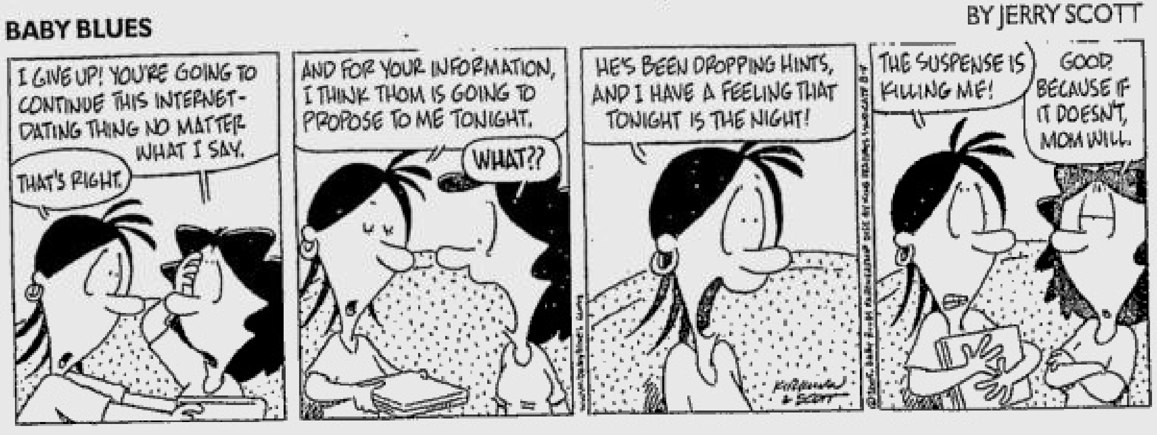
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


WEST PERIMETER SECURE.
NORTH PERIMETER SECURE.
EAST PERIMETER SECURE.
WE GUARD DOGS LOVE PARAMILITARY TALK.
8-4
www.kingfeatures.com

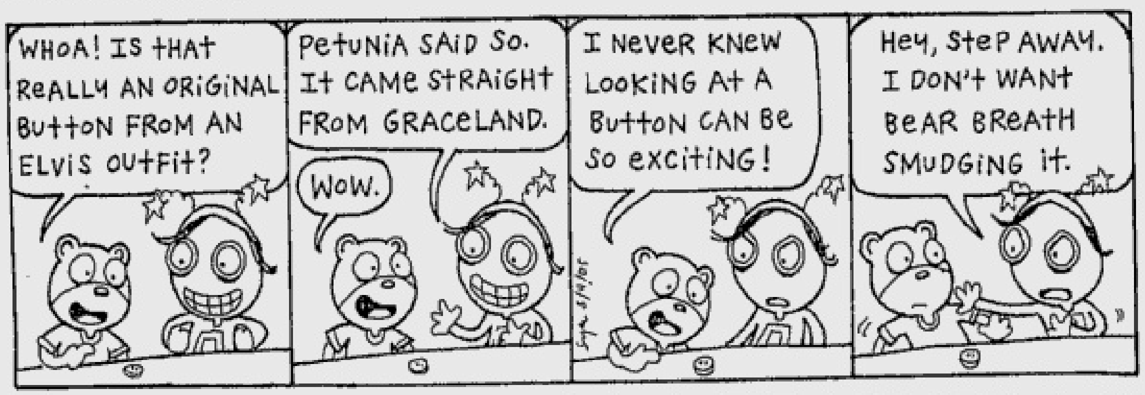
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I GIVE UP! YOU'RE GOING TO CONTINUE THIS INTERNET-DATING THING NO MATTER WHAT I SAY.
THAT'S RIGHT.
AND FOR YOUR INFORMATION, I THINK THOM IS GOING TO PROPOSE TO ME TONIGHT.
WHAT??
HE'S BEEN DROPPING HINTS, AND I HAVE A FEELING THAT TONIGHT IS THE NIGHT!
THE SUSPENSE IS KILLING ME!
GOOD. BECAUSE IF IT DOESN'T, MOM WILL.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WHOA! IS THAT REALLY AN ORIGINAL BUTTON FROM AN ELVIS OUTFIT?
PETUNIA SAID SO. IT CAME STRAIGHT FROM GRACELAND.
WOW.
I NEVER KNEW LOOKING AT A BUTTON CAN BE SO EXCITING!
HEY, STEP AWAY. I DON'T WANT BEAR BREATH SMUDGING IT.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You need to express yourself via music, writing, words—something. You're a natural performer. You're very generous with your loved ones. Many of you work in the hospitality industry or the entertainment world. The year ahead offers new avenues and fresh starts. Be courageous about opening new doors. **Birthdate of:** Billy Bob Thornton, actor/writer; Raoul Wallenberg, humanitarian; Louis Armstrong, musician.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Think about how you can improve your love life. Today is the New Moon, and it's the perfect time to make new resolutions. You can also think about how to improve your relations with children.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): What can you do to improve your relations with family members? If you can think of just one thing, then resolve to do it. What have you got to lose?

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): The New Moon and three other planets are all in the communication sector of your chart. They're urging you to be extra-clear in all your communications with everyone.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Many of you have lots of stuff in closets, drawers, cupboards, etc. You are practical, and you keep things in case you'll need them one day. Try to streamline your possessions today!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a good day to think about your appearance and the image you create every day when others see you. What can you do to feel better about your image?

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): It's important to keep a good balance in your life. We easily focus on material things and day-to-day work. However, remember to give thought to your spiritual world as well.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Are you happy with your friends? Do you hang out with quality people? If you want to have more friends in your life, be friendly!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Are you proud of the way you relate to authority figures in your life? How do you talk to your boss, your teacher, your parent? There's no need to rebel. You just have to be straightforward and direct.

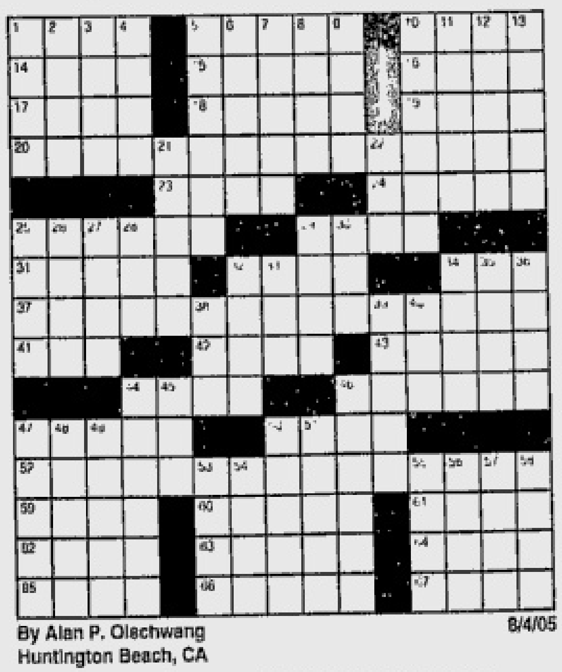
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Are you allowing enough adventure in your life? It's important to break free from your daily routine now and then, to explore new avenues.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a good time to clear up fuzzy details about shared property. It's also a good day to return borrowed items.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You've been more involved in the lives of others lately. What can you do to improve these relationships?

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This New Moon is the time to figure out how to improve your job or the way you do things at work. There's always a better mousetrap.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

8/4/05

ACROSS

1 Female equine
5 Floats through the air
10 Attention getter
14 Middle Eastern leader
15 Open courtyards
16 Focal points
17 Stable staple
18 Rides air currents
19 Cosmetic ingredient
20 Start of Aristotle quote
23 Farmer's place?
24 Nickel parts
25 Calyx parts
29 Moved swiftly
31 Spout from the dais
32 London district
34 Novelist Leverson
37 Part 2 of quote
41 Sound of a slow leak
42 PC command
43 Rain ice
44 Tracks persistently
46 Savors victory to excess
47 Antic
50 Piece of gossip
52 End of quote
59 Small singing group
60 French states
61 Length times width
62 Caps for Scotsmen
63 Victimizes
64 Battle souvenir
65 On the sheltered side
66 Spacek of "Carrie"
67 Without: Fr.

DOWN

1 Tabby talk
2 Indian nursemaid
3 Dove or Moreno
4 Formerly, formerly
5 Squanders
6 Bikini, for one
7 Delicate
8 Grow weary
9 Back talk
10 Did some carpentry work
11 Wise lawgiver
12 Tonto's mount
13 Stadium levels
21 Couch potato
22 Arctic surface
25 Pacifying offers
26 Love god
27 Handles roughly
28 Noshed
29 Get lost!
30 PAC beneficiary
32 Male progeny
33 Peculiar
34 Sailing
35 Lose on purpose
36 Picnic problem
38 Barge puller
39 Ocean speck
40 "Xanadu" band
44 Remove a ruler
45 Barcelona gold
46 Sleek
47 Terra follower
48 Of the ear
49 First in degree
50 Snares
51 Pot builders
53 Ties the knot
54 Ornamental case
55 Soviet news agcy.
56 Killer whale
57 James or Dizzy
58 Rowboat equipment

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

R	O	T	O	H	■	S	A	N	D	S	■	C	P	A
A	M	I	N	O	■	U	B	O	A	T	■	O	A	R
M	A	G	E	N	■	R	E	A	T	A	■	M	R	I
A	H	E	A	D	O	F	T	H	E	G	A	M	E	■
D	A	R	■	O	R	E	■	■	■	E	V	E	N	T
A	S	S	N	■	D	H	A	B	S	■	A	R	T	E
■	■	■	O	B	I	■	L	A	W	N	■	C	A	N
L	E	A	D	I	N	G	T	H	E	F	I	E	L	D
O	P	S	■	D	A	R	E	■	D	C	M	■	■	■
S	I	T	S	■	Z	E	R	O	I	■	P	O	M	P
S	T	O	O	P	■	■	■	U	S	A	■	M	E	A
■	O	N	T	O	P	O	F	T	H	E	H	E	A	P
A	M	I	■	S	E	P	A	L	■	D	I	R	G	E
D	E	S	■	E	L	U	D	E	■	E	N	T	E	R
A	S	H	■	R	E	S	E	T	■	S	T	A	R	S

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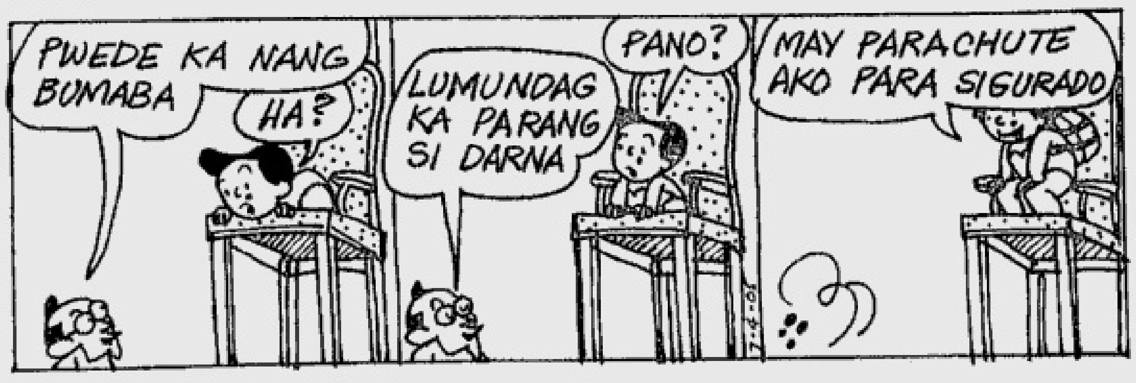
8/4/05

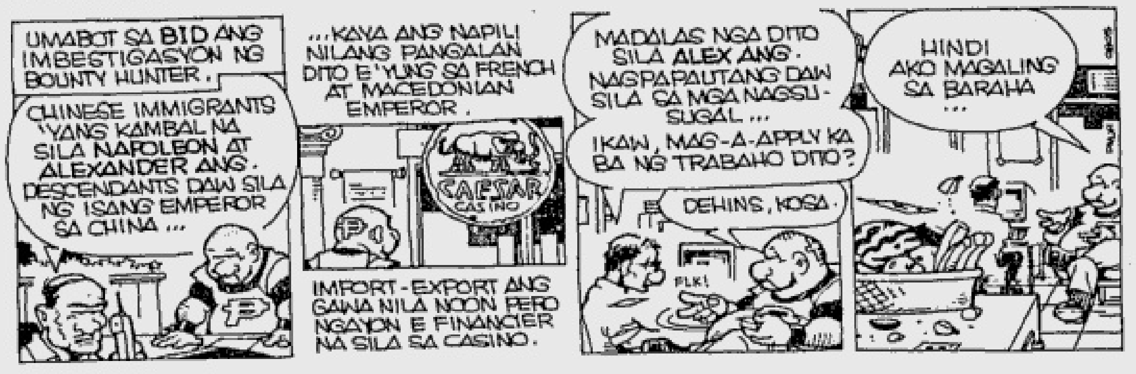
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PWEDE KA NANG BUMABA
HA?
LUMUNDAG KA PARANG SI DARNA
PANO?
MAY PARACHUTE AKO PARA SIGURADO

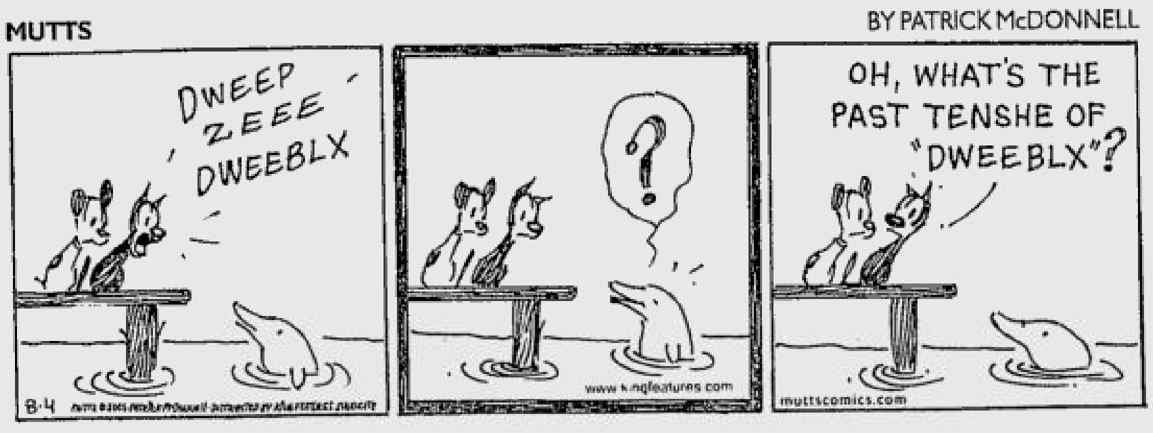
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


UMABOT SA BID ANG IMBESTIGASYON NG BOUNTY HUNTER.
CHINESE IMMIGRANTS 'YANG KAMBAL NA SILA NAPOLEON AT ALEXANDER ANG. DESCENDANTS DAW SILA NG ISANG EMPEROR SA CHINA ...
...KAYA ANG NAPILI NILANG PANGALAN DITO E 'YUNG SA FRENCH AT MACEDONIAN EMPEROR.
CAESAR CASINO
IMPORT-EXPORT ANG GAWA NILA NOON PERO NGAYON E FINANCIER NA SILA SA CASINO.
MADALAS NGA DITO SILA ALEX ANG. NAGPAPAUTANG DAW SILA SA MGA NAGSUSUGAL...
IKAW, MAG-A-APPLY KA BA NG TRABAHO DITO?
DEHINS, KOSA.
PLK!
HINDI AKO MAGALING SA BARAHA ...

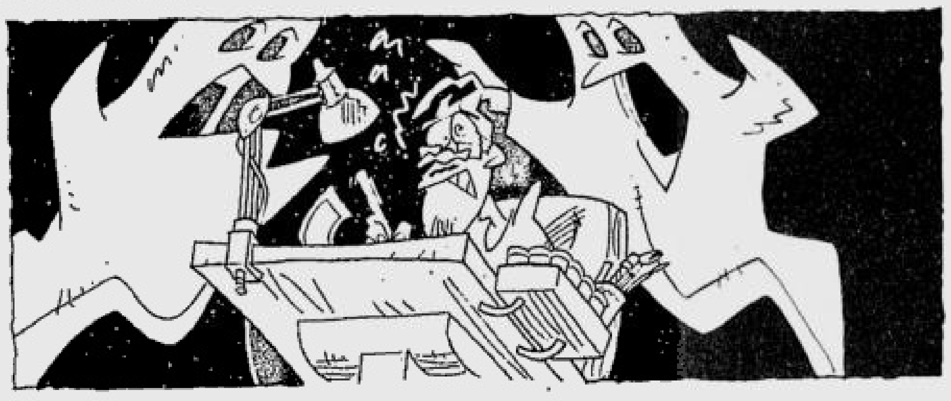
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


DWEEP ZEEE DWEEBLX
?
OH, WHAT'S THE PAST TENSHE OF "DWEEBLX"?
8-4
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com

DIVINE COMEDY

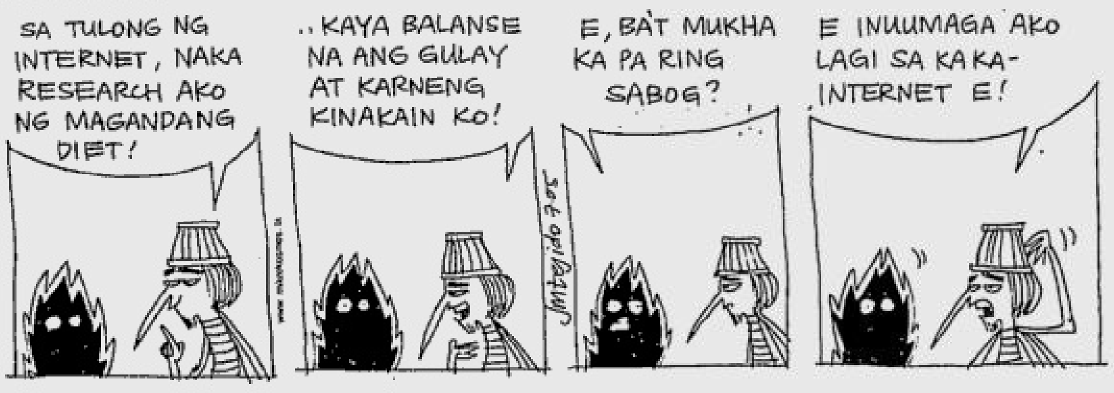
BY STEVEN PABALINAS



DO-DROWING NA NAMAN SANA NG "EPITAPH JOKE" ANG KARTUNISTA NANG BIGLA SYANG MINULTO....

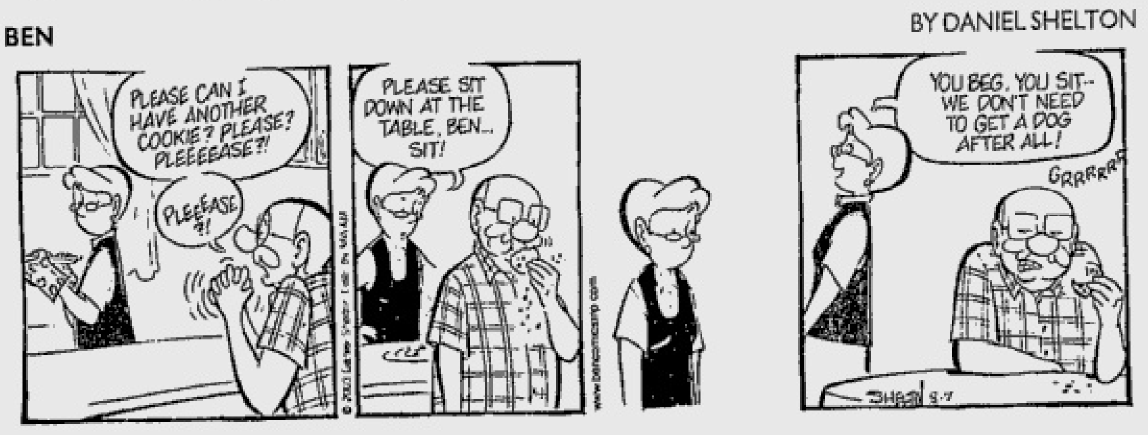
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


SA TULONG NG INTERNET, NAKA RESEARCH AKO NG MAGANDANG DIET!
..KAYA BALANSE NA ANG GULAY AT KARNENG KINAKAIN KO!
E, BA'T MUKHA KA PA RING SABOG?
E INUUMAGA AKO LAGI SA KAKA-INTERNET E!

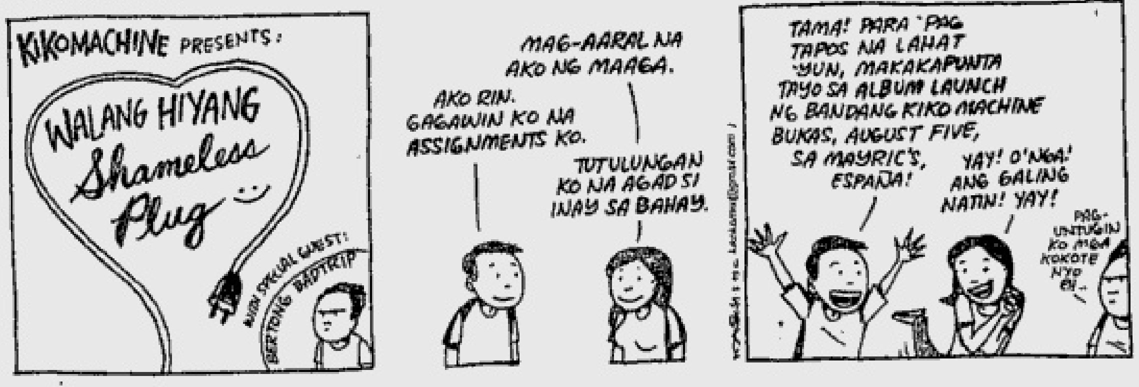
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


PLEASE CAN I HAVE ANOTHER COOKIE? PLEASE? PLEEEEASE?!
PLEEEASE ?!
PLEASE SIT DOWN AT THE TABLE, BEN... SIT!
YOU BEG. YOU SIT-- WE DON'T NEED TO GET A DOG AFTER ALL!
GRRRRRR

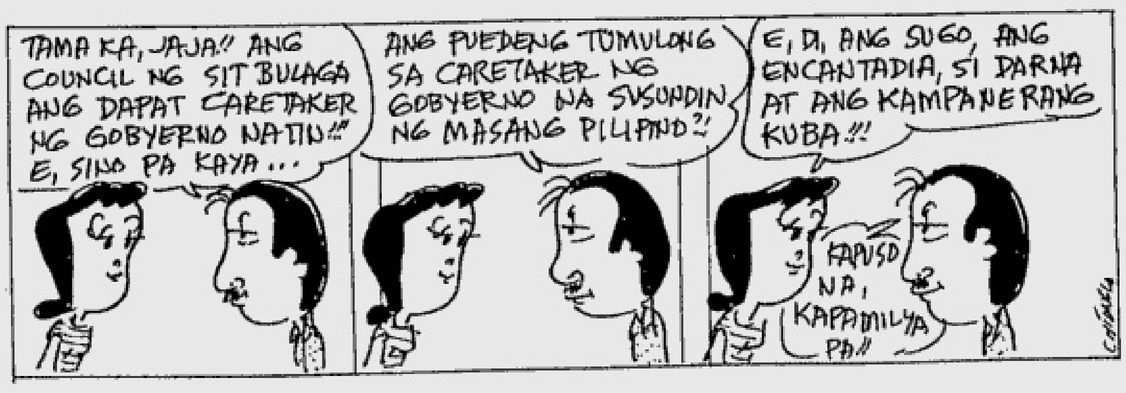
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


KIKOMACHINE PRESENTS:
WALANG HIYANG
Shameless Plug
WITH SPECIAL GUEST: BERTONG BADTRIP
MAG-AARAL NA AKO NG MAAGA.
AKO RIN. GAGAWIN KO NA ASSIGNMENTS KO.
TUTULUNGAN KO NA AGAD SI INAY SA BAHAY.
TAMA! PARA 'PAG TAPOS NA LAHAT 'YUN, MAKAKAPUNTA TAYO SA ALBUM LAUNCH NG BANDANG KIKO MACHINE BUKAS, AUGUST FIVE, SA MAYRIC'S, ESPAÑA!
YAY! O'NGA! ANG GALING NATIN! YAY!
PAG-UNTUGIN KO MGA KOKOTE NYO EH..

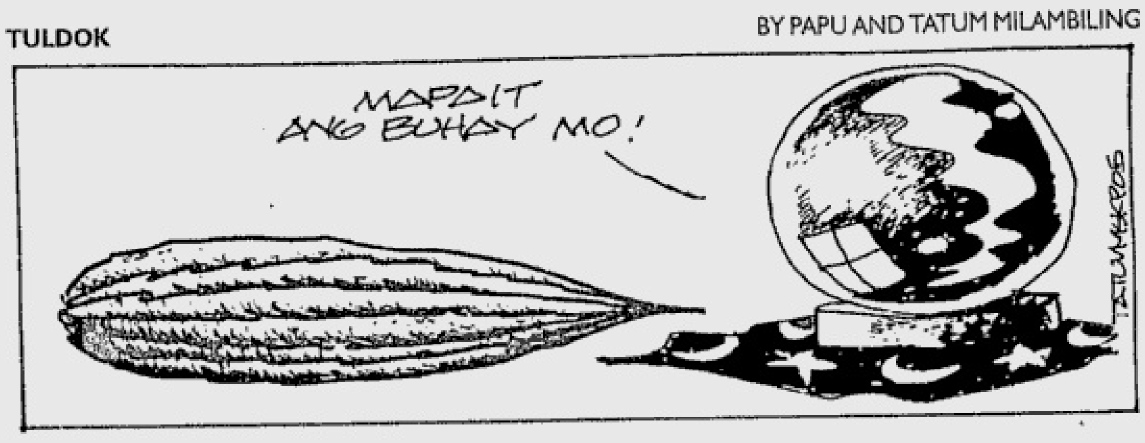
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


TAMA KA, JAJA!! ANG COUNCIL NG SIT BULAGA ANG DAPAT CARETAKER NG GOBYERNO NATIN!! E, SINO PA KAYA...
ANG PUEDENG TUMULONG SA CARETAKER NG GOBYERNO NA SUSUNDIN NG MASANG PILIPINO?!
E, DI, ANG SUGO, ANG ENCANTADIA, SI DARNA AT ANG KAMPANERANG KUBA!!!
KAPUSO NA, KAPAMILYA PA!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


MAPAIT ANG BUHAY MO!
TATUM MAKROS

Cell phone users still getting 'spammed'

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

DESPITE the stop-spam circular issued last March by the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), broadcast and cellular phone companies haven't stopped sending unsolicited text messages.

And, judging by the number of complaints sent by consumers to this column, spam texts appear to have increased beyond control.

As some of the letter senders complained, the texts were annoying, especially when you receive messages that are in two or more parts. But, what was deplorable was the fact that cell phone companies charged them double or more for messages they did not ask for.

Some of these spams sneak in as advisories when, in fact, they are advertisements in disguise. Why the disguise? It's simply because the NTC allows companies to send the certain types of messages. To quote from the circular: "public service information messages, network advisories and consumer welfare and protection related advisories."

Letters

Joey Montalvo wrote, "I learned from Globe's customer service rep that they charged you even if you didn't download a ringtone. No wonder that, on previous instances, (for) a P100 load, I only got to make between 70-80 messages (without making any calls).

"I hope that you will sustain the effort or at least compile your readers' letters/cases for submission to Congress or the Senate for a much-needed investigation (if no one has done this yet) as well as rally consumer groups to (protest) these abuses."

From J. de la Cruz: "I wonder why Smart keeps sending ringtones that automatically cost us P15 each? We (do not ask for) any of these ringtones that are sent to us. If needed, we would request for them but don't send us these advertisements and promotional alerts."

A Globe subscriber comments: "The so-called value-added services may come in the form of a four digit code such as 2346 that keeps sending advertisements and other promo alerts.

"For instance, you will receive a promotional alert along with a free logo, icon, quote or picture message from 2346. The last line of the accompanying ad says, 'Reply no to stop receiving... from 2346.' Since this is just an ad, most people don't bother to read it. They will just delete the message. However, if you don't text NO, you are automatically enrolled in the service. From then on *araw-araw ka nang makakatanggap ng* quotes (P2.50/day), logos/icons (P10-15/day), picture messages (P5/day), ringtones, etc.

"And... you may not be aware of it yet, but there is a charge for every balance inquiry with 222. I don't know if you received the notice about this."

NTC rules

For the information of readers with questions and complaints about unwanted messages, I quote some sections from new NTC rules and regulations sent to us by Danilo Cuenca, chief of the NTC One-stop Public Assistance Center. (Abbreviations and technical terms are explained at the end.)

- Commercial and promotional advertisements, surveys, and other broadcast/push messages shall be sent only to subscribers who gave prior consent or specifically opted to receive said messages. PTEs and content providers shall also provide methods for subscribers to "un-enroll" at some later date.
- Broadcast/push messaging shall not be sent between 9 p.m.-7 a.m. except on paid subscription services.
- A subscriber/recipient of broadcast/push messages shall not be charged for the received SMS and/or MMS messages unless the subscriber/recipient agreed to receive them.
- Subscribers/recipients who do not reply to broadcast/push messages shall be considered to have opted out. Such broadcast should be stopped or subscribers may opt out without being charged.
- Complainants may file their complaints with or phone them in to concerned PTE that shall act on all complaints received in whatever form and manner within 30 days after receipt.
- Complainants not satisfied with the action of the PTE may bring the matter to the NTC.

NTC defines terms

PTE (public telecom entities) refers to people or companies that provide services for a fee.

MMS (multimedia messaging service) allows users to send and receive messages containing images, videos, audio and text.

Push messages are information—unsubscribed or unsolicited—transmitted by server of the content provider to mobile phones.

To opt in means the subscriber has requested to receive direct marketing through MMS or SMS.

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SMS means short messaging service, a function for sending text to mobile phones that use the global system.

For more details on the NTC circular, write to Commissioner Ronald O. Solis, National Telecommunications Commission, BIR Road, East Triangle, Diliman, QC 1101.

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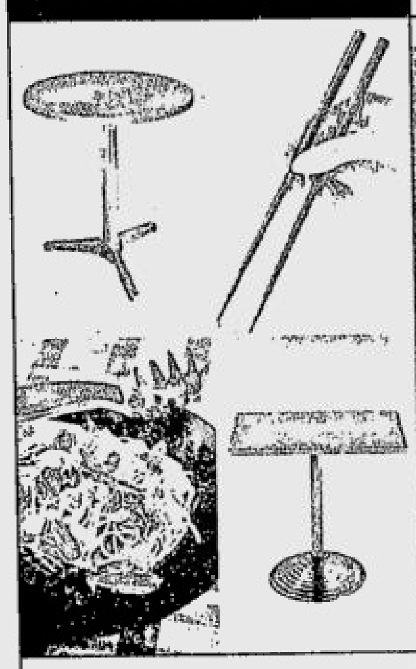

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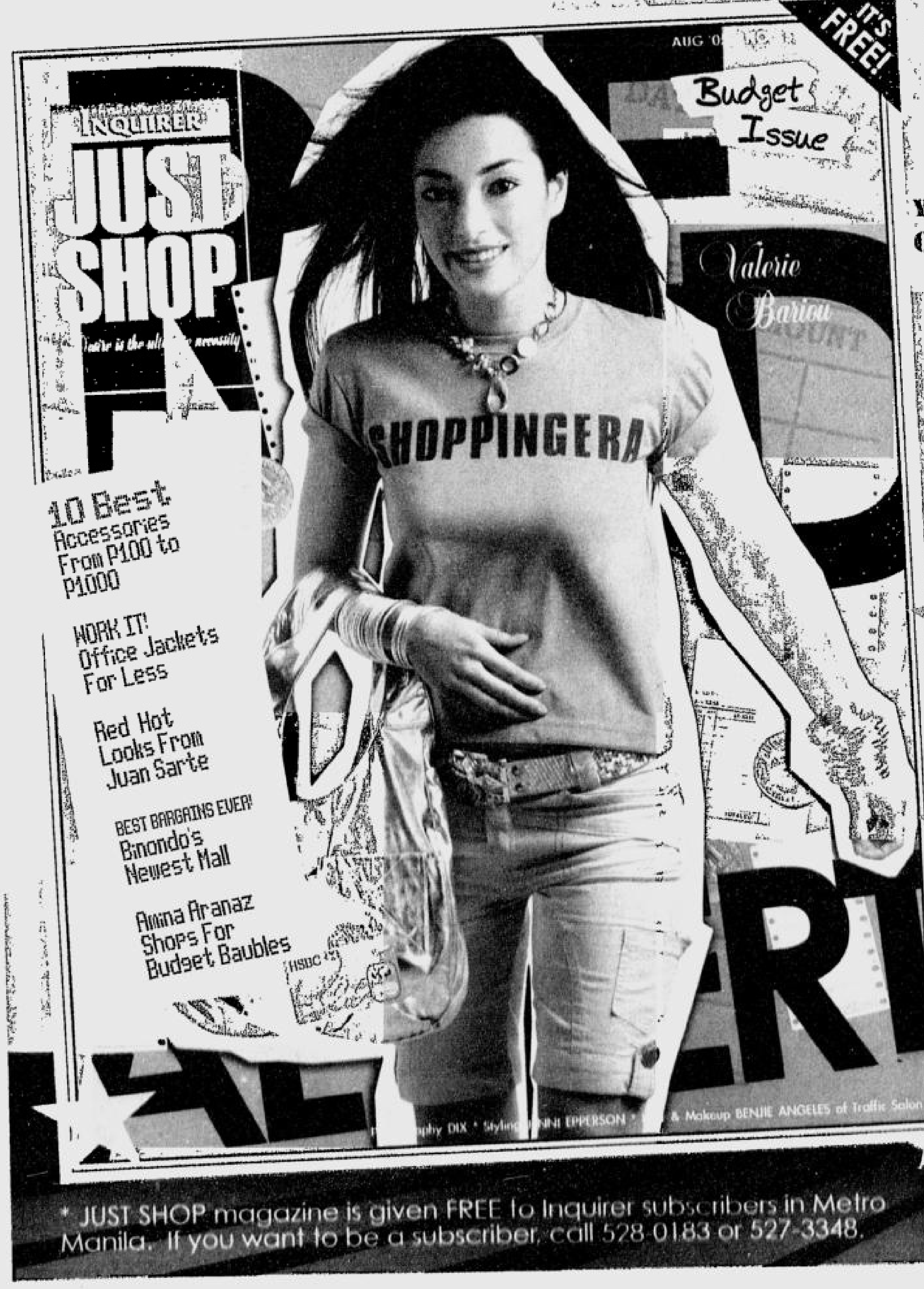
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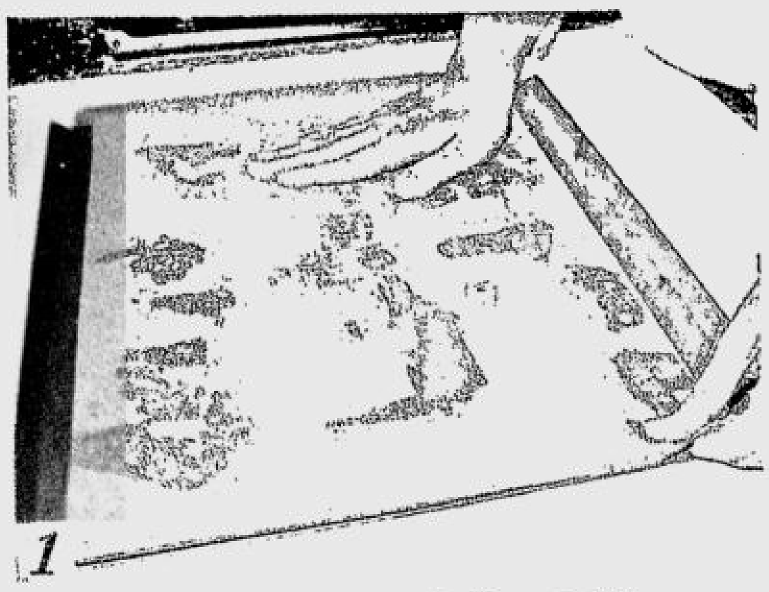
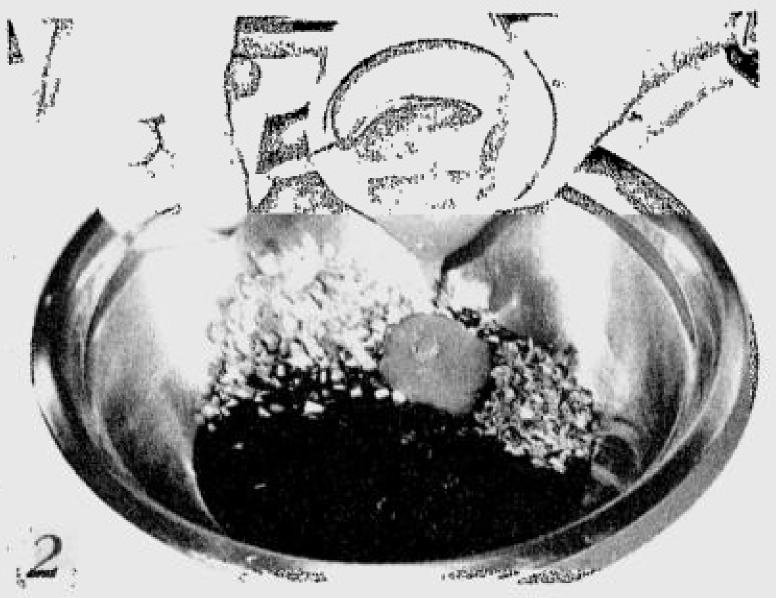
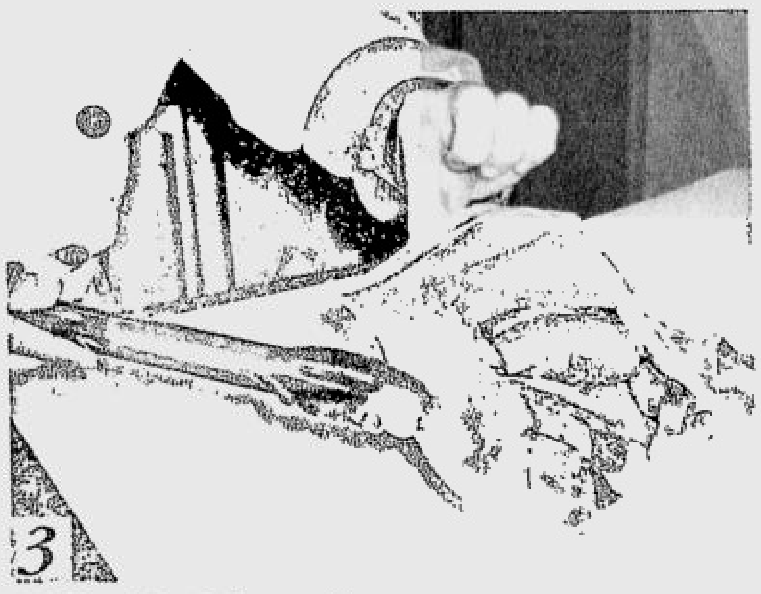


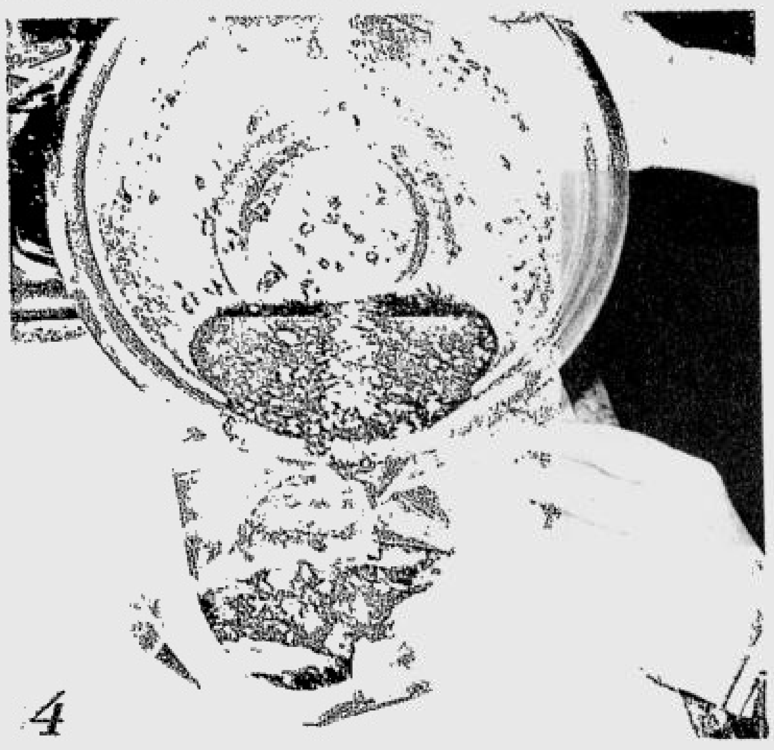
PRE-HEAT oven to 450°F. Pour vegetable oil onto the baking pan. Take a pastry brush and brush oil evenly on the pan, coating the surface. Take a sheet of Glad Bake and line the baking pan, pressing slightly for the paper to stick to the bottom.



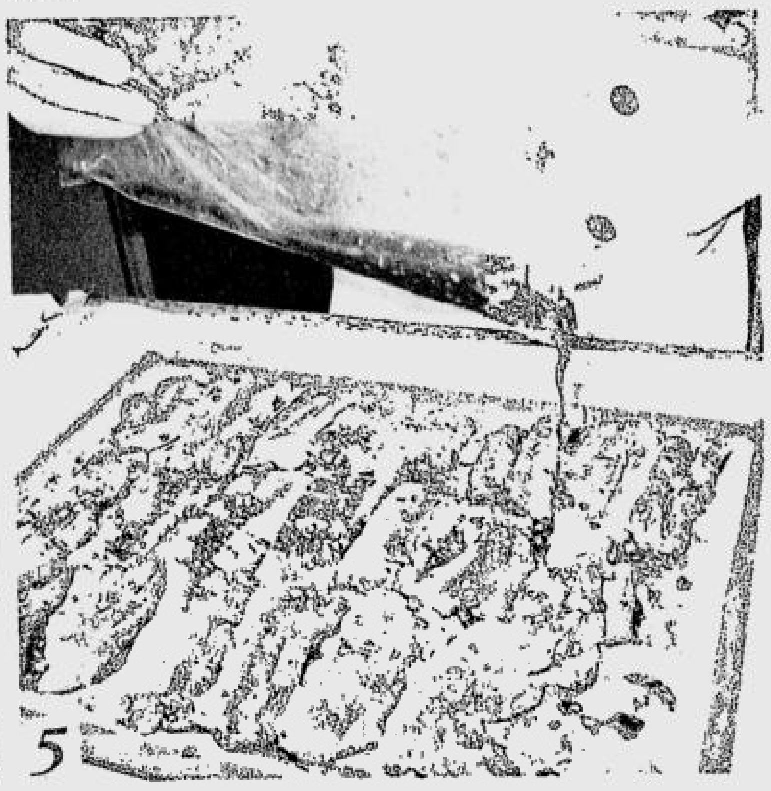
IN A LARGE bowl, combine green onion, cilantro, honey, hoisin sauce, soy sauce, catsup, oyster sauce, sesame oil and garlic. Whisk to blend.



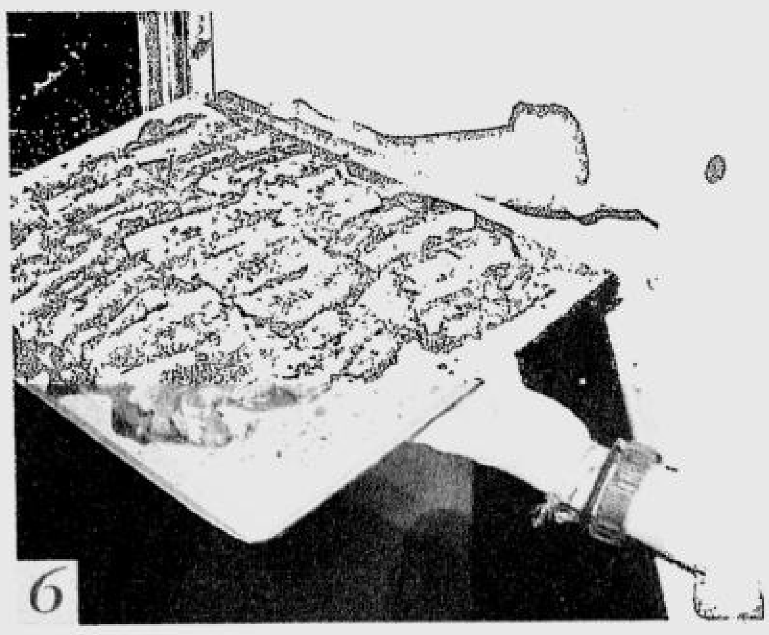
PLACE pork in a Glad storage bag.



POUR the marinade. Press seal to lock and toss meat to coat. Marinate for one hour.



PLACE marinated pork on top of baking pan, arranging in a single layer.



BAKE for 30 to 45 minutes, turning occasionally and basting meat from time to time. If you have a two-deck oven, transfer baking dish to the upper rack and broil 6 inches away from heat, turning each piece of meat once. Broil the meat for about six minutes on each side or until caramelized. Meanwhile, strain the leftover marinade, put in a pan and cook until it is thick and sticky. After taking the meat out of the oven, spoon the extra sauce on top of pork and serve. Garnish with cilantro sprigs.

Oven-cooked pork barbecue

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Roger Carpio

HAD a busy day? Try this simple, basic pork barbecue recipe that does not need skewers and does not have to be cooked on a grill.

If you have a piece of pork belly (*liempo*) in the freezer, let it thaw as soon as you get home. Start preparing the marinade. Then put pork slices in the marinade and pop the whole thing in a regular oven.

STEP BY STEP

Voila! Instant Asian Pork BBQ.

"Asian Pork BBQ is one fairly easy recipe to try at home," says chef Melanie Cruz, who offers, along with partner-chefs Pria Chiongbian Solon and Ana Limjap Park, recreational cooking classes at Cooking Basics Culinary Studio.

"You don't need special ingredients for this recipe because it basically consists of pork and (marinade made from various sauces available at home)," Cruz adds.

The marinade has a nice sweet, tangy taste that goes great with the pork. Sesame oil and hoisin and oyster sauces, in particular, give the marinade that extra Asian sweetness. The marinade can also be prepared ahead of time.

When buying pork, look for meat that is pale pink with a small amount of marbling and white (not yellow) fat. Darker pink meat means the animal is older. Pig is usually slaughtered at between 6-9 months for leaner, tender meat.

If you prefer the usual grilled barbecue, Cruz suggests, "The *'liempo'* can be put in the refrigerator in the morning to marinate and be ready for the grill after work."

The Cooking Basics recreational culinary center is at the G/F Unit 5, Vivere Suites, Asean Drive, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Call 7710082 or e-mail cookingbasics@pacific.net.ph.

Ingredients

1 kg pork belly (*liempo*) sliced, 4 inches long
½ c chopped green onions
¼ c chopped cilantro, wansuy
½ c honey
3 tbsp hoisin sauce
3 tbsp soy sauce
2 tbsp tomato catsup
1 tbsp oyster sauce
2 tbsp sesame oil
4 cloves garlic, chopped
For garnishing:
1 sprig cilantro leaves, wansuy
1 tsp vegetable oil for greasing

For suggestions, e-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

ASIAN Pork BBQ

TELMOK

Sealed with a zing from Albay

PDI FAMILY RECIPE CONTEST

By Henedina B. Bongapat

ASK famous personalities from Tabaco City, Albay, about Telmok and they will tell you that their visit to our hometown is not complete if they don't eat Telmok.

I inherited this recipe from my great-grandmother, who was a well-known food vendor in our town in her time, not only because she observed proper sanitation, but mostly because the food she sold was delicious and affordable. Telmok was one of her specialties.

This recipe is always a part of our family gathering, especially in the summer when almost all our family members come for vacation in our hometown. Sometimes, we even have to do two versions, one with *siling labuyo* for the older folks, and another without *sili* for the young ones.

Telmok

4 c young coconut, scraped thinly
5 cloves garlic, chopped
1 pc onion, chopped
1 c shrimp juice (squeezed from grounded ½ k small shrimp)
¼ c fresh *hierba buena* or fresh oregano juice (about 30 pcs *hierba buena* or 20 pcs oregano leaves: mince and squeeze the juice)
1 tsp salt to taste
8 pcs *laing* or squash leaves
5 c coconut milk

Combine the first six ingredients. Set aside.

Lay flat the *laing* leaves over a plate. Scoop 2 tbsp of the mixture and put at the center of the leaves. Neatly fold the leaves and wrap the mixture. Tie up the wrapped mixture to prevent from opening. Arrange in a casserole. Pour in coconut milk. Add a pinch of salt to taste. Let boil for about 30 mins, half-covered. Serve hot or cold.

Sweet dried tomatoes from Antique

PDI FAMILY RECIPE CONTEST

By Ma. Nora S. Gonzaga

OUR family owned a small parcel of rice land in one of the barangays in Hamtic, Antique, and after the first cropping, we would usually plant tomatoes. Because the tomato harvest would sometimes be more than enough for family consumption, my grandmother preserved tomatoes with sugar.

This candied tomato recipe was passed on by my grandmother to my mother, who loved to cook it for her 16 children (eight boys and eight girls), of whom I'm the youngest.

I learned to cook Dulce de Kamatis at age 10 as I used to help my mom whenever she cooked it. I love to cook this dessert and serve it to my 40 nephews and nieces. Dulce de Kamatis is the family's favorite dessert and most of us in the family know how to prepare it. It is a nutritious and delicious dessert for everybody and makes for a good all-occasion food gift.

Dulce de Kamatis or Candied Tomatoes

2 kg ripe tomatoes
1 kg sugar
2 tbsp. finely chopped calamansi rind

Preparation:

1. Boil tomatoes for 10 minutes until its thin covering starts to peel off.
2. Set aside to cool.
3. Remove the tomato skin. Individually cut tomatoes into halves to remove seeds.
4. Drain liquid, if any.
5. Dip cut tomatoes in sugar individually and let sugar be absorbed overnight.

Cooking procedure:

Combine chopped *calamansi* rind and sweetened tomatoes in a pan and cook over moderate heat, stirring once in a while to avoid scorching, until the sugar caramelizes.

Remove the tomatoes and place in a baking pan, tray or *bilao*.

Dry the tomatoes under the heat of the sun.

When dried, seal in sterilized jars, or wrap each piece of tomato in thin paper or cellophane with frills on both ends. Candied tomatoes may be stored up to six months, even longer.

DULCE de Kamatis